Sunday, July 19, 2009 ** 3 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 321 P28

• Newscaster leaves wife for lady boss • Eldest daughter Queenie turns 18; father Robin Padilla depressed ENTERTAINMENT • Manny Pangilinan and the simple life: Ordinary Chinese fare in the HK boardroom while watching 'Eat Bulaga' LIFESTYLE

• Globetrotter's personal list of the world's best bars • 30 ways to mend after a night of boozing • Words of Wis-doom: 20 pickup lines even a drunkard shouldn't try SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER

THE SOUND OF MUSIC IN UP The restoration of the Carillon, the centerpiece project of the UP Alumni Association (UPAA) for the university's centennial last year, is now complete. In place are 36 new carillon bells from the Netherlands. Last month, the UPAA inaugurated the Carillon Plaza, not only to create an aesthetic setting but also to serve as a venue for the arts. Present were UPAA's past and present officials, donors and music lovers.

Panlilio angers prelates

Superiors reject Fr. Ed's plan to run for president

By Tonette Orejas, *Inquirer Central Luzon*
and Dona Pazdiluga

MORE THAN HIS PREVIOUS FORAY INTO LOCAL POLITICS, Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio's bid for the country's highest office has elicited worried, angry and even outraged reactions from his superiors and fellow priests in the Catholic Church and from Church members.

San Fernando Archbishop Pablo Antonio angrily rejected Panlilio's plans to run for president and leave the priesthood.

"He is drifting from his original priestly mission. A priest is a servant of the city of God, not of the city of man," said Antonio. Panlilio's immediate superior who strongly objected when Panlilio, a priest for 26 years, ran for governor in 2007.

Ranjo Serrano, president of the parish pastoral council in Guagua town, said that while many Catholics in his hometown were not necessarily against Panlilio, they preferred that he return to the priesthood and "lead the laity in the crusade for good governance and moral leadership."

Panlilio formally offered himself as a candidate for president in 2010 at a launch event at the Barangay ng Mga Bayani (Monument of Heroes) park in Quezon City yesterday. (See related story on Page A4.)

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, a known critic of Panlilio, noted that Church law prohibited priests from running for public office in the first place.

"When his supporters say that he is the only one qualified to run for president, it is impossible that among so many Filipinos there is no one principled, there is no one qualified to become president," Cruz said.

PANLILIO A4

WHAT'S INSIDE

• Walter Cronkite, US TV legend, America's 'most trusted man,' dies; 92 • World celebrates Mandela on 91st birthday WORLD A24

Crush Abu, Teodoro tells troops in send-off

By Tarra Quismundo

ZAMBOANGA CITY—DEFENSE SECretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. yesterday deployed at least 1,000 more soldiers to boost antiterror efforts in Basilan, citing a "golden opportunity" to strike at and stop a "severely weakened" Abu Sayyaf before the security situation grew critical in the run-up to the 2010 elections.

On a whirlwind visit to this city and neighboring Basilan, Teodoro rallied the troops behind a renewed push to quell the bandit group responsible for kidnappings and attacks in parts of Mindanao.

He said it was virtually "headless" as a result of continuous government offensives in its areas of operation.

"The message of the government is clear: We will not make compromises with terrorists," he told the troops during send-off rites yesterday afternoon at the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) headquarters here.

Teodoro and top military officials in Mindanao led the send-off for two Marine battalions and a battalion of the Philippine National Police Special

CRUSH ABU A9

MEMORY OF A RACE
Named "Diwata ng Lahi" (Spirit of a Race), the balangay which is preparing to sail to 62 ports from Manila to Davao served as the transport of Filipino seafarers some 1,700 years ago. Badjao shipbuilders from Sibuta and Tawi-Tawi constructed this 15-meter balangay with wooden planks and natural adhesives. The balangay team, led by former Transportation Undersecretary Art Valdez, is the same group that summited Mount Everest. Sailing with them are six Badjaos and representatives from the Navy and Coast Guard.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Prayer for Cory like RP democracy

By Fr Zamora

ONLY SEVEN PARAGRAFIS LONG, yet it tells the story of former President Corazon Aquino, our country's upheavals and our yearning for eternal grace from a Divine Being.

Like Philippine democracy which Aquino once described as a "work in progress," the "Prayer for Tita Cory" is a joint work in progress by her appointments secretary, Margarita F. Juico, and Aquino's speechwriter, Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr.

Aquino, 76, has been confined at Makati Medical Center for loss of appetite and general weakness since late June. She was diagnosed with colon cancer last year.

Juico said she wrote the prayer for the first day of the novena Masses for the ailing former President at the Sto. Niño de Pie chapel at Greenbelt 5 in Makati which started on July 1.

"I sent a copy to Teddy Boy for him to edit, embroider, comment," Juico, who edited the book, "Cory Aquino: An Intimate Portrait," told the Inquirer.

Juico said Locsin, who never many

PRAYER A4

Local execs into politics of caring GK way

By Chris Bassi-Ferrenos
Learning Editor

WHEN FILIPINOS MIGRATE TO America, Canada, Australia or some other country reputed to be a zone of prosperity, it is usually because the government is negligent, the economy is in shambles, the society is crumbling, and they cannot see the good in staying.

So being a government official/politician is perhaps the worst credential to present at any gathering attended by these two groups of people. But at the recent GK 2009 Summit held in Boston, Massachusetts, in the United States, Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund (Lray) Villafuerte Jr. proved there is no such thing as a tough crowd when you are a Gawad Kalinga partner.

Originally a church ministry founded by Tony Meloto and his

LOCAL EXECS A6

'Gibo': The Senate's not worth my time

By Tarra Quismundo

ZAMBOANGA CITY—IF IT'S NOT THE presidency why bother?

Defense Secretary Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro Jr., who has declared his desire to be drafted as the administration candidate for president in 2010, squelched speculations that he might be persuaded to settle for a less exalted position when he finally becomes a member of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD.

GIBO A9

When Vicky met Winston, it was now or never mind

By Larry Lesiste
Contributor

THERE WERE NO SPARKS WHEN they first met, but a few months later, Vicky Garchitorena and retired Navy Capt. Winston Arjon, both in their 60s, knew they were meant to be together.

Love is truly lovelier the second time around.

Garchitorena, 63, former head of the Presidential Management Staff during President Macapagal-Arroyo's first year in office and once considered "the second most powerful woman in the land," has agreed to marry Arjon, 67, a retired Philippine Naval officer who served as Special Assistant to Ambassador Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez from 1982 to 1986 at the

VICKY MEETS WINSTON A6

PEERLESS PAIR Vicky Garchitorena is dynamic and a born leader; her intended, retired Navy Capt. Winston Arjon, is shy but passionate, romantic.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_secondfrontpage@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/nation

EZ2 (2pm draw) 22 11 (5pm draw) 9 11

SUERTRES (2PM Draw) 1 1 4 (5PM Draw) 6 3 3 (9PM Draw) 7 2 6

SIX DIGIT (No winner earlier) 1 0 7 6 8 9

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN 5 22 29 33 39 41 P4,006,317.60

POWER LOTTO 5/55+1/10 43 54 4 34 35+6 P65,635,029.00

Drug firms beat Palace price deadline

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

MULTINATIONAL DRUG COMPANIES YESTERDAY beat Malacañang's deadline to voluntarily comply with the Cheaper Medicines Law by submitting proposals to slash the prices of at least 21 of their essential drugs by half.

"They have complied with the deadline and even included pre-pencil price reductions for other drugs, exceeding the 21 essential drugs, which is very good," Health Secretary Francisco Duque II said in a phone interview.

But Duque said it was too early to tell whether the pharmaceutical companies had complied with Department of Health specifications. "Are the price reductions accurate? That's what needs to be validated by the DOH," he said.

Duque said an advisory council would also go over their recommendations. The council is composed of representatives from the DOH, nongovernment organizations, the academe, pharmaceutical industry and Congress, among others.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had given the drug companies 10 days to come up with reduced price proposals.

Show us the list

If the compliance is unsatisfactory, Ms Arroyo said she would sign an executive order setting the maximum retail price for these drugs.

At Cebu airport, Ms Arroyo on July 6 agreed to let the companies draw up a term of understanding stating their commitment to slash by more than 50 percent the prices of essential drugs.

Senators Miriam Defensor Santiago (Independent), however, want to see the list of drugs.

In an interview over dzRH radio, Pimentel, the Liberal Party president, asked Malacañang to answer a simple question: Where is the list of the essential medicines that pharmaceutical companies volunteered to sell at lower prices or claim a promotional discount on price ceilings on medicines?

"We waited a long time for this. The deadline is today, but we see no cheaper medicines list yet," the senator said.

Rosie Concepcion Alvarez, for International Nurses Alliance, said voluntary compliance with the Cheaper Medicines Law instead of imposing a maximum retail price on medicines through an executive order.

Rake in more profits

He said some of the drugs whose prices should be halved under the EO are the antihypertensive Norvasc, in P222.50 from the present P44.50; antidiabetic Diamicron, P7.05 from P14.75; and antibiotic Augmentin suspension 60/ml, P179.50 from P450.

Jacinto, on the other hand, said the delay in the implementation of the minimum retail price of essential medicines had given drug firms a "window to rake in more profits which they may have lost if it had earlier been imposed by government."

An EO setting drug price ceilings has reportedly been on Mr Arroyo's desk since June 15.

"The P50b outlays in diarrosine allegedly offered by a drug firm may be peanuts compared to the profits earned by the pharmaceutical companies because of the delay in the issuance of the executive order," he said in a statement.

Kids with cancer inspired price controls, says DOH exec

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

CHILDREN AFFLICTED WITH cancer were on the minds of health officials when they identified the first batch of medicines to be placed under price control.

"Leukemia is the number one killer in pediatric cancer. So it is curable, as long as you have the required chemotherapy drugs," said Dr. Robert Ilo, program manager of the Department of Health's National Drug Policy that oversees all efforts to make medicines affordable and available.

The drugs cost thousands of pesos, but are available at much lower prices abroad.

Chemotherapy drugs make up half of the list of 21 essential drugs the DOH has recommended for a 50-percent across-the-board cut in retail price.

The rest in the list are antibiotics and maintenance drugs for hypertension, cholesterol and diabetes, among the most common ailments in the country.

"It would have been easy to come out with a list that includes all medicines and say that they should be priced at P1. But we needed a rationale," he said.

The DOH had asked Presidential Management Aide to invoke the maximum retail price (MRP) provision of the newly enacted Republic Act No. 9502 which seeks to bring down the prices of medicines through greater market competition.

Multinational drug companies met with the President on July 6 and offered to submit their own list of voluntary price cuts for medicines of their own choosing.

Based on proposals received so far by the DOH, some firms offered price cuts of as much as 50 to 60 percent, but not for the medicines the DOH had identified in its proposed MRP list, according to Ilo.

The 10 chemotherapy drugs in the list are bleomycin, carboplatin, cisplatin, cyclophosphamide, cytarabine, doxorubicin, etoposide, mercaptopurine, methotrexate sodium and vincristine. The antibiotics are piperacillin + tazobactam, ciprofloxacin, azithromycin, metronidazole and co-amoxiclav, and the rest are antihypertensive drugs amlodipine, nifedipine, irbesartan, the antidiabetic drug clopidogrel, the antidiabetic drug glidiabide, and the antiatherosclerotic drug atorvastatin.

Ilo said their recommendations in for a 50 percent reduction in the retail prices as of the first quarter of 2009 because "it was when we made the study and when we identified the exorbitant prices." The UP School of Economics faculty was consulted for the study.

When the law took effect last year, Ilo said they tried to get to senator drugs ambopitton, albutamine, albendazole, the antihelminthic drug clopidogrel, the antidiabetic drug glidiabide, and the antiatherosclerotic drug atorvastatin.

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2009 Review Schedules

Comprehensive Review:

SECTION A
- Aug. 3 to Oct. 2
- Monday to Friday
- 8am to 12nn

SECTION B
- Aug. 3 to Oct. 2
- Monday to Friday
- 1pm to 5pm

Intensive Final Coaching:
October 26 to November 10

- Special Rate will be given for enrollees of group of 10 and up
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Typhoon 'Isang' leaves 5 dead, displaces thousands

AT LEAST FIVE PERSONS WERE KILLED AND nearly 100,000 were displaced by Typhoon "Isang," as it gained strength before moving away from the country yesterday, officials said.

Among the dead was a 13-year-old boy who drowned in a swollen waterway in Cabarroguis City and a 33-year-old man who was electrocuted in Bislig, Bicol Region.

Lilian Rita, Sacred Heart provincial social welfare officer, said Lorenzo Fernando was electrocuted by a broken power line submerged in floodwaters in Barangay Pulpulan, Legazpi City, on Friday afternoon.

Radio reports meanwhile said a baby was killed in Iloilo province.

Two persons, who were reported missing on Friday, were found Saturday morning in Real and Casiguran, the Calabarzon Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) said.

The body of Arnold Aclao, 9, was found in a creek in Barangay Bacnbac in San Mateo, Rizal, at around 9:30 a.m., Fred Bragas of the RDCC said in a phone interview.

The boy was reportedly playing in the flood Friday morning, when he fell into a waterhole, Bragas said.

In Cavite, police fished out the body of Jonathan Clemente, 22, from a creek in Barangay Dasmariñas 4 in Bacoor town 10:30 a.m.

According to reports, Clemente was crossing a bridge in Barangay Bahay na Pula, in Imus town when he slipped and fell into the creek.

With maximum winds of 95 kilometers per hour near its center and gusts of up to 720 kph, "Isang" by early Saturday was moving west northwest of Batanes island.

It is forecast to be within the vicinity of southeastern China by Sunday, the weather bureau said.

Nearly 23,000 families, or about 95,000 individuals in Manila, the surrounding suburbs, and in northern Philippines were displaced by the typhoon, the Office of Civil Defense said.

The eye of Isang hit the sparsely populated Batan island group near Taiwan on Friday night. Earlier it caused widespread flooding in large parts of Metro Manila, forcing the government to suspend classes and work in public offices.

Isang has left the country's area of responsibility but the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Saturday the southwest monsoon was likely to bring occasional rains to some parts of the country. AFP, with reports from Marlene Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Cristine Avendaño, Inquirer Northern Luzon; and Alexis Pajo

Others Promise. WE DELIVER.
We are Changing Lives, Building Communities

Figures are unofficial count

Construction and rehabilitation of dams provide efficient and sufficient agriculture support facilities

PGMA empowers LGUs, calls them 'Partners for Progress'

A road. A bridge. Potable water. A school. A day care center for little children. Infrastructure gives birth to jobs and livelihood, transforming once-old and tired barrios into bustling, productive barangays bound for progress.

This was the vision of the 1992 Local Government Code, when certain powers of central government were transferred to towns, cities, and provinces across the archipelago.

But how to realize progress without ready, guaranteed funds?

It would take a true partnership between the Local Government Units (LGUs) and the national government to achieve this.

And it would take a President to see clearly where that partnership can be harnessed to positively effect change in people's lives and build progressive communities for Filipinos without regional bias.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, backed by then Lakas CMD and Kampi, built this partnership with the LGUs and their able Local Chief Executives (LCEs). "Kayo ang haligi ng ating pamahalaan," she praised them.

LGUs AND LCEs, MGA KAISA NI PANGULONG GLORIA TUNGO SA KAUNLARAN

Partnership Beyond Autonomy

The Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA), the Local Government Units' (LGUs) share from the national treasury, democratizes the national wealth.

Only through President Arroyo's decisive action has the IRA achieved its purpose and became a democratic tool for rural development, peace, progress and national stability.

That partnership she achieved through the following:

- **In 2005, the President appropriated P5 billion for LGUs' Kilos Asenso --which harnesses the power of convergence and the bayanihan spirit of Filipinos to accelerate growth and reduce rural poverty.**
- **The President approved the monetization of unpaid IRA totaling P17.5 billion for CY 2000 and CY 2001;**
- **And beginning in CY 2007, the President and Congress agreed that the IRA for the LGUs be automatically released without need of a national appropriations act.**

President Arroyo witnesses the signing of the LAKAS KAMPI CMD merger in Davao City

The LGUs, now truly empowered, call the President their friend and leader. Their partnership flourishes, leading the nation in the frontlines of the war to stamp out poverty and make every Filipino a stakeholder of progress.

Borromeo funeral

MA. MYRNA DIAGLO BORROMEO, who died on July 16, will be cremated after the 7 p.m. Mass tonight at Santuario de San Jeronimo in Forbes Park, Makati City. The widow of Dr. Ramon Borromeo, she is survived by her son Ali, daughter Mina, grandchild Samuel, sister Lu Bustillo and Teng Rosales and brother Joey, and is predeceased by her other daughter, Frida. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Frida P. Borromeo's Legacy Association Inc.

'Use gov't fund to import drugs'

HEALTH ADVOCATES HAVE CALLED ON the government to use the economic stimulus fund earmarked for public services to import essential medicines immediately, saying that this was a crucial part of public service.

According to the Ayos na Gamot sa Abot-kayang Presyo (Agap) Coalition, the government must take the lead in the importation of essential medicines.

"In the same way that billions in public funds are appropriated and spent to import rice and subsidize local palay prices annually, to ensure the stable supply and price of rice, the same commitment must be accorded to finance the importation of essential medicines," Agap said.

The coalition groups 17 sectoral associations like the Bot Trade Alliance, Associations of Barangay Health Workers, Federations of Philippine Industries, and Citizens Alliance for Consumer Power.

Agap also included "influential" individuals such as incumbent and former senators, doctors and business leaders.

According to Agap, current proposals to set maximum retail prices (MRP) for 20 essential medicines or for pharmaceutical firms to sell, initially reduce the prices of those drugs by half were merely palliative measures.

"Due to their very limited coverage to 22 medicines, the benefits would be restricted to the few who take those medicines," the group said.

"What is needed is to introduce competition in the market through substantial parallel importation," it said.

At the same time, the Health Alliance for Democracy (Halad), a group of health workers and advocates, said President Macapagal-Arroyo should not hedge in signing an executive order (EO) on the MSP.

"The Arroyo administration should not be held captive by investment considerations because pharmaceutical multinationals have long enjoyed their investments and amassed huge profits on the expense of Filipino life and limb," said Cesareo E. Rivera, secretary general of Halad. Bernard W. Dominguez

MIDYEAR BONUS DODOBLEHIN!
FULL STORY NEXT PAGE

So who will be Among Ed's first lady?

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IF HE IS GIVING UP THE PRESIDENTIAL BID for a bid to lead the country, will Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio also be looking for a first lady?

The answer was of course a "no." But the joke was typically given a thoughtful and proper airing.

Panlilio said he would not be on the lookout for a first lady, and that would be his advantage over traditional candidates because he will have no family to support, no business to protect and no political allies to serve.

Panlilio yesterday formally offered himself up as a candidate for president in 2010, backed by the newly organized Bilog Nat, at a launch held at the Barangay ng Mga Bayani (Monument of Heroes) park in Quezon City.

Some of the 70 or so people who attended the event had not even been invited, like the Movement for a Better Philippines, a new youth group, and a Filipino-American who promised to mobilize Filipinos in the United States to raise funds for Panlilio.

Lawyer Ma. Gonia Bocaya Plaza, who called the first lady question, attended the launch with her husband, after reading about it in the business. She said she has been campaigning for Panlilio in her Barangay home province.

Panlilio won a prime for 29 years before pulling a surprise victory in the 2007 gubernatorial race in Pampanga. He is on leave from his priestly duties while serving out his term, but said he would leave the priesthood if he runs for president.

Panlilio stressed that whether he makes his bid formal by filing his candidacy in November would depend on how ready the people are to support the change that he espouses.

"I am ready for this challenge. The question is, are you ready, too?" he told the crowd.

He said his decision would also depend on the ability of the movement to gather enough supporters.

We're not suicidal

"We are not suicidal. I believe there is no point in pursuing it if we will not have enough support," he said.

He urged those "who want to work for good governance" to "come out in the open" and declare their support for an alternative presidential candidate.

"If I am alone, I can do nothing," Panlilio said.

Bilgas Gov. Teodoro Bagatlar Jr., Kilusang Bagong Lipunan spokesperson Ronaldo Puno and Bro. Eli Soriano, executive minister of the Church of Christ, were also present at the launch.

Bagatlar said their goal is to field a complete lineup of reform-minded candidates down to the municipal level.

Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca is being considered for Panlilio's running mate. Some of the possible senatorial candidates are Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo, lawyer Alex Lacson, Akbayan party-list Rep. Risa Hontiveros and Bayan Muna representatives.

Panlilio said he and Padaca, whose presidential candidacy is being pushed by other groups, had agreed that only one of them would run for president.

"We will not run against each other," he assured supporters.

In his brief speech, Panlilio said his "simple dream of a country that is rich, peaceful, healthy, God-centered and united" can be achieved by "changing our greed which is the root of corruption."

Most qualified

He said he is the most qualified to face this challenge, promising a leadership that "listens" to the people and supporting people's initiatives.

A good president should not only be competent but one who would also surround himself with officials who are also equally concerned about the country, he said.

He also enumerated his assets: A 1999 Toyota Revo, a Hyundai motorbike bought in 1999, and two pieces of real estate with a combined market value of P700,000.

"If I become President, I assure you my assets will not increase," he said.

Bagatlar said Bilog Nat hopes to make the choice between Panlilio and Padaca by September, which would be determined by survey results, the number of volunteers, funds and resources generated and "their level of determination."

If he fails to gather enough support, Panlilio said he would submit himself to the People's Primavote, a movement which aims to choose a common alternative candidate by holding a series of primaries patterned after the United States system.

Stalwarting officials said they wished Panlilio well in his presidential bid but saw tough challenges ahead for him.

"I'm happy for it's Ed because that shows a lot of people are supporting him," said Lanibel Rejanlo, the deputy presidential spokesperson. With 33 Bargueño

Panlilio angers prelates over presidential plan

From page A1

Panlilio's plans to seek another public office will "further confuse the faithful," sources said.

He said the Church has recently been asking the laity to "evangelize politics" by either running for public office or ensuring honest elections in 2010, while persuading them not to field their priests in electoral policies.

Panlilio's plans would place "the faithful in a dilemma," Antonio said.

According to the bishop, who earlier said that he decided to go the long route, Panlilio would "destroy" him twice, his first step as a Church leader is to be the guardian of its members and its laws.

In 2007, the bishop went to the extent of assembling a Church council to compel Panlilio to run the law. Eventually, he suspended Panlilio by barring him from administering the sacraments and performing other priestly duties.

In Pampanga, the relationship of Antonio and Panlilio is known to be like that of a father and son. He ordained Panlilio with the diocese's social action ministry for 15 years, assigning him to poor parishes.

"This is very sad. He's a good priest. He served the poor of Pampanga in the difficult years of the 90s. Pinambo disaster... I love Among Ed," said Antonio, 72.

Seek formal dispensation

Cruz said Panlilio should seek formal dispensation from the Church before he proceeds further with his political plans.

"There is no such thing as a priest on leave," he said. He said Panlilio's dramatic should be properly described as "suspended" from his duties.

Under the lengthy process of seeking a Church dispensation, a priest asks to be released from his priestly obligations like the vow of celibacy and obedience to the bishop, so that he can no longer say Mass and administer the sacraments.

But even if he is granted a dispensation, Panlilio will remain a priest, according to Cruz who handles dispensation cases.

"What can be dispensed is the electoral aspect, not his priesthood. It is already a part of his life. Once a priest, always a priest," he said.

Fr. John Tiong said he did not want Panlilio to run for president or have the priesthood.

"But it is a pastoral act on his part as a citizen that wishes to do something good for our country. As such, I will vote for him just as a protest against the crooked politicians," Tiong said.

Not docile followers

Another priest, who asked not to be named in deference to the position of the governor's sister Catholic bishops, noted that Pampanga Catholics, while devout in their faith, have a long history of rebellion against the government, and the May 2007 elections, in which they elected the maverick Panlilio proved they would rather be a moral force than be docile followers.

A Church dispensation that would allow Panlilio to leave the priesthood will help Pampanga Catholics deal with the dilemma of "keeping Among Ed not priest or giving him up for the country," he said.

Pros and cons

Former Bulacan Rep. Wilfrido Mercado, whose mother is from Pampanga, said Panlilio should "just return to a simple civilian life out of the Church and the priestly vocation to which he has already caused much pain and embarrassment."

Salgado-Bautistan, the chair of the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development who was in the anti-Marcos movement with Panlilio, asked the priest to "pause for a serious introspection."

"Much he might rediscover that this true calling is the priesthood. He was a good priest because that was the purpose of his existence. He wasn't good as a politician because he was not made out to be one," he said.

Tough act to follow

But Panlilio continues to have a loyal ally in City of San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez, a member of the administration Lakas- Kampi CMD.

"I will not push him but if he finally runs, I will not forsake him," said Rodriguez.

He said the governor has removed corruption from the capitol's concerns and transactions, increased quasy revenues to P450 million and prioritized education, health, livelihood and agriculture.

"(Panlilio) will be a tough act to follow," Rodriguez said.

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Save your sight, watch solar eclipse using right equipment

By Alexis Papa

SKIP THE USE OF BASINS FILLED WITH water, X-ray film and sunglasses.

Doing so would only ruin your eyes, according to astronomy and weather experts who advised the public yesterday to use only the proper equipment to view the partial solar eclipse on July 22, when the moon will partially obscure the sun.

Professor Frederick Salmasan of Astronomy Philippines and an instructor at the Rizal Technological University Department of Astronomy, told the Inquirer that water had a five-per-cent rating of reflectivity.

"That is, it reflects five percent of sunlight while allowing 95 percent to pass through. While this seems small, it is still 5,000 times bigger than the 0.00001 considered to be safe for solar observation," he said.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), for its part, said "combustion and oxidation" may lead observers to view the eclipse without the proper gear, that could lead to damage to the retina.

Even the use of smoked glass, photographic film and negatives is dangerous, the agency said in its website.

Pagasa said the safest method would be "indirect viewing" through a "pinhole camera" or projecting the image of the sun onto a white piece of paper or card using binoculars (with one of the lenses covered), a telescope, or another piece of cardboard with a small hole in it about one millimeter in diameter.

The agency also suggested the use of safe and certified solar filters, provided the instructions are followed.

If the weather in Metro Manila is clear, Salmasan said the moon will be seen covering as much as half of the sun, or 49.5 percent, by his calculations. The eclipse may be viewed by residents of the metropolis from 6:32 a.m. to 11:43 a.m.

In Laoag City, Salmasan said 61.4 percent of the sun will be covered, 39.2 percent in Vigan City, 50.4 percent in Baguio City, 45.4 percent in Tuguegarao, 36.6 percent in Cebu, and 27.7 percent in Davao.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, July 19, 2009
16th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jer 23:1-6

"Woe to the shepherds who scattered and scatter the sheep of my pasture!"

"See, a true sovereign will blossom, God of it said, and he shepherds in charge of my people, "You have scattered my sheep and driven them away instead of caring for them. Now I will deal with you because of your evil deeds.

"I will gather the remnant of my sheep from every land to which I have driven them and I will bring them back to the grasslands. They will be fruitful and increase in number. I will appoint shepherds who will take care of them. No longer will they fear or be troubled. Not one will be lost."

Yahweh further says, "The day is coming when I will raise up a king who is David's righteous successor. He will rule wisely and govern with justice and righteousness. This will be a great time of salvation when Judah will enjoy peace and Israel will live securely. He will be called Yahweh our justice."

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23: 1-6

Lord Jesus, send by his blood, you who were once far off have come near.

For Christ is our peace, he who has made the two peoples one, destroying in his own flesh the wall...the hatred...which kept people apart. He abolished the Law with its commands and precepts. He made peace in uniting the two peoples in him, creating out of the two one New Man. He destroyed hatred and reconciled us both to God through the cross, making the two one body.

He came to proclaim peace: peace to you who were far off, peace to the ones who were near. Through him we...the two peoples...approach the Father in one Spirit.

Gospel: Mk 6:30-34

The apostles reassembled and reported to Jesus all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, "Go off by yourselves to a remote place and have some rest." For there were so many people coming and going that the apostles had not time even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a secluded area by themselves.

But people saw them leaving, and many could guess where they were going. So, from all the towns they hurried there on foot, arriving ahead of them.

He [Jesus] saw ashore he saw a large crowd, and he had compassion on them for they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began a long teaching session with them.

Commentary:

The Good Shepherd is one attentive to the needs of His flock. He pastures them in flowerfilled fields where safe from predators who seek to scatter and attack and slaughter. He leads them to where they can find water and rejoice when they are pleased. He leads them through the valley of the shadow of death to the tranquil waters and verdant pastures where they might find rest. The Good Shepherd is never far nowhere in seeking care of His sheep.

How can we not be moved by this account of the soul crowds hanging on Jesus' every word as He proclaims at length about the Kingdom of God? His words speak to the heart of every person, for they truly give life to the soul. Now blessed we are to have access not only to the words of Jesus as they are presented to us in the Bible, but also to have access to the Word of God, living and breathing in the heart of the Church. Like the members of the clergy at each other gathered worship as many priests who are now gathered together in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist the Word of God who becomes flesh and dwells among us.

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Teachers press for abducted colleagues' rescue

By Julie Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE families of three teachers kidnapped by suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits in Zamboanga Sibugay on March 15 were overwhelmed with emotion when teachers from all over the country staged rallies to demand greater government effort in ensuring their loved ones.

Since Wednesday teachers in various parts of the country have staged a series of protests dubbed "Tingig Dayo (Save the Teachers)," urging the government to exert more efforts to rescue Jocelyn Ecalpuro, Jocelyn Intino and Noemi Bindil.

The three teachers were on their way to Ditsaluran in Naga town when they were assisted by boso-clding gunmen.

Rodel Ecalpuro said he was troubled by the "tremendous support" of the teachers. But he wished it would translate into the release of his wife and her colleagues.

"It's the need our pain somewhat. At least we feel the support of many teachers who are also concerned about this case," Ecalpuro said in Filipino when contacted by phone during a protest held in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay on Friday.

Ecalpuro, along with the families of Bindil and Intino, said they could not help but doubt the government's efforts because it appeared that Philippine officials gave more importance to foreign hostages.

"It's been four months, four days or 12 hours, nothing (has) happened (ring bisyo kong (mahitungod) makita si mayakop ang among mga asawa (it is both my concern to see that our captive husbands) ... Ang among gipangayuan ug suod sa mahukmanong pa rito niya ang among mga (One of the most important things we) ask from the court these months, four days and 12 hours, my youngest child has been asking for nothing more than to see and hug his mother again, and all this time, I have always assured him that his mother will come home, and they will be together again)," he said.

Ecalpuro appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo for help.

Efren Bindil, Noemi's husband, said what was most worrisome was that the captors have never sent them a message.

He said the lack of communication and waning search efforts by local government officials and security forces were contributing to their worry.

"Nya ang nag-inilling lakas ko (she is the source of my strength)," he said of his wife, who had just undergone surgery when she was abducted.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said he understood the anxieties of the victims' families.

Lapus said that up to this time, the fate of the kidnapped teachers or even their location remained uncertain.

"I hope the abductors open their hearts and mind[s], the teachers' mission [entails] them and children and relatives," he said from before flying to Zamboanga Sibugay to date for the protest.

He was not there by teachers, who displayed their placards on which were written, "No teachers around, no future to be found, remove the cuts, save the future."

Cops to add 200 'eyes' after Indon bombing

TWO HUNDRED CLOSED-CIRCUIT television (CCTV) cameras will soon be installed by the Philippine National Police (PNP) around possible Metro Manila terrorist targets, in the wake of the deadly and near-simultaneous bombings of two high-end hotels in Jakarta, Indonesia on Friday.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno told reporters at the Kapihan sa Sulo forum in Quezon City yesterday that the CCTVs would be set up around "soft targets," including hotels, malls, theaters and transport terminals.

"The cameras will be monitored from police headquarters at Camp Crame to ensure constant surveillance of these establishments," he said.

Puno said the police have also stepped up intelligence gathering and would be getting more dog sniffers to detect explosives. Motorists should also expect more checkpoints set up in the metropolis, he added.

"For the moment, I think the public can rest assured that both the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces are up to the challenge of keeping them safe," Puno said.

Leila B. Salaverria

C'bato inmates taken to Taguig

CUNEBATO CITY—EIGHT OF 16 high-profile inmates at the North Cotabato provincial rehabilitation and detention center have been transferred to the national detention center in Taguig City, South Cotabato Gov. Jesus Sacdalan said on Friday.

Sacdalan did not say when the inmates—most of them Abaco rebels linked to kidnappings and bomb attacks in Central Mindanao—were moved to the prison in Metro Manila but said that the remaining eight would also be transferred soon.

He said the decision to transfer the inmates came in the wake of attacks by suspected Abaco Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels on the provincial jail.

The rebels have staged at least two attacks seeking their jailed comrades, Sacdalan said.

The latest was in May, when MILF rebels stormed the jail but failed to free some inmates, killing a prison guard in the process.

A major attack took place in 2007 when the rebels managed to free 47 inmates, among them Sadam Ali who was linked to the 2006 bombing in Makilala, North Cotabato, that left nine people dead and scores wounded.

Of the 47 escapees, 32 were recaptured while three were killed when they resisted arrest, Sacdalan said.

"This will spare the provincial jail from future harassment and attacks. The inmates have links with Abaco rebel groups," Sacdalan said.

North Cotabato Vice Gov. Emmanuel Pifiol said the transfer would also downgrade the overcrowded facility near the provincial capitol in Kidapawan City.

Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

MEMBERS of the Philippine team that garnered 27 medals placed fourth overall in the 18th World Youth Invitational Mask Competition held in Durban, South Africa. Each their winning forms and multiple awards.

CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE BOARD
ANNOUNCEMENT

The Career Executive Service Board announces the conferment of the Career Executive Service Eligibility on the following qualified employees who have successfully passed the Career Executive Service Examination conducted on 15 March 2009:

1. SALVADOR A. AVES
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NEDA, Region X

2. ELISA E. BAROQUIL
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5. SITI AMINA M. JAIN
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7. CYNTHIA C. LIGO
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8. MARIO G. MONTANO
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We request the public for any feedback, support, or opposition to the nomination of any of the above finalists. Please send any information or feedback to the CESB on or before July 31, 2009.

Please address reports to the General CSI Committee on Awards, CSW Office, No. 3 Magsaysay Street, Iloilo Saint Drive, Diliman, Q.C., or e-mail to gawad_csw@yahoo.com or fax at 931 4966 or 927 3006. All information received by the CESB shall be handled with STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY.

Isang Karangalan ang Maglingkod sa Bayan

Pinoy 'mathletes' bag 27 medals

By Jerry E. Esplanada

FILIPINO MATHLETES ACES WON 27 medals in the 20th World Youth Invitational Mathematics Invention Competition held recently in Durban, South Africa.

With four silver and 23 bronze medals, the 13-member Philippine contingent placed fourth in the 19-nation contest, according to Dr. Ernesto Chua, president and co-founder of Mathematics Trainers' Guild (MTG) Philippines and head of the delegation.

The silver were won by Filipino "mathletes" Geraldine Justine Sison Jr. Paul College-Pasig, Arielle Elise Chua from St. Jude Catholic School, Russell Vinnix Ivan Gelvan Arambong and Cheng Hong Wu from Zamboanga Chong Hwa School.

Receiving Cheng and Vicente silver medals, along with Marco Eldric Go from St. Jude Catholic School, Elvin Jeremy Ignacio from Philippine Science High School, Matthew Chris Chan from St. Stephen's High School, and Smith Jone Cua from Pangasinan Universal Institute.

In the team competition, Batapol, Cheng, Ivana and Chua also won bronze medals.

The other bronze medalists were Adrian Raphael Co from Xavier School, Gwin John Ong from Bacolod Trinity Christian School, Pierre Manuel Jacinto of Ateneo de Manila high school, Janeen Kaith from Philippine Cultural College, Hans Vladimir Cabanes from Zamboanga Chong Hua High School, and Hanah Jane Cua from Pangasinan Universal Institute.

Aside from the medals, Aprino, Go, Ong, Chua, Ignacio, Ranik and Cabanes also received merit awards.

A total of 228 high school students competed in this year's contest, which was topped by math aces from China, Singapore and Thailand.

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Noli orders hunt for 'recruiter'

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO YESterday ordered a massive hunt for a recruiter who went into hiding after victimizing more than 700 applicants for what turned out to be nonexistent jobs in London.

Speaking on his radio TV program, "Para Sa Iyo, Bayan," De Castro identified the recruiter as Valerie Cielo Sabayo, who also goes by the aliases Brigitte Logarta, Brigitte Dela, Maria Cristy Hope, and even used the name of one applicant, Gina Cruz.

De Castro said the suspect, who grew up in Cebu and was last known to reside in Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City, was wanted for illegal recruitment and estafa.

"Magpakita ka, magtatrabaho at mag-Madrileng arrestador pa (She's beautiful. She could pass for an actress)," De Castro said, as he flashed the suspect's photos on the screen.

Her accomplice, "Nancy Lumacag," was earlier arrested by the Task Force on Illegal Recruitment headed by De Castro.

According to the victims, Sabayo promised them a monthly salary of P200,000 plus free board and lodging in a food and beverage business in London. They were also promised work schemes equivalent to their one month salary before departure provided they deposited P25,000 each in processing fees.

Sabayo became one of the deployments who passed on the program, and he was promised a job in London as a waiter he likers.

Lopez, who used to work in Japan and other countries, said he did check the supposed job order with the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency but did not find it.

He said he was told by Sabayo that the jobs she was handling were being offered through direct hiring.

Mervin Rosas, another victim and a professor at the Computer System Technology College, said he resigned from his job to apply with Sabayo.

Rosas said Sabayo promised he would be included in the first batch of applicants to be sent out on Jan. 28 but the trip did not materialize.

Cynthia D. Balana

Globe
Ideal for singaporeans

Palace: Premise wrong of survey question on Charter change

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY scoffed at the results of a Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey that showed that 7 out of 10 Filipinos opposed any amendment to the Constitution that would extend the term of President Macapagal-Arroyo beyond 2010.

According to the survey, 70 percent of Filipinos said they disagreed with a Charter change (Cha-cha) that would allow Ms Arroyo to remain the country's top official after June 2010.

Another 55 percent said they believed Ms Arroyo was behind attempts to amend the Constitution to extend her term.

Undersecretary Lorelei Fajardo, deputy presidential spokesperson, objected to the manner by which the questions in the survey were phrased, saying that their premise was wrong.

"The problem with surveys, first of all, is the way the questions are asked. For instance, the subject is Charter change, and it [is] linked to the extension of the term of the President. The premise is wrong, so you get the wrong answers and the wrong results," Fajardo said over government radio.

The survey asked the respondents "Are you for or against a Charter change that will allow President Macapagal-Arroyo to still be the chief official of the Philippines after June 30, 2010?" TJ Burgonio

For 1st time, media to get own copies of election returns

By Kristine L. Alave

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN PHILIPPINE election history, media groups will be getting official copies of election returns (ERs) hot off the precinct voting and counting machines to beat vote's polls.

In previous elections, only the Commission on Elections (Comelec), its citizens' arm, Congress and major political parties got one of the seven copies of ERs manually prepared at the precinct level. Media organizations relied on the quick count of watchdog groups to get a quick gauge of election results.

But with the first automated polls in 2010, members of the broadcast and print media will be entitled to receive printouts of official ERs directly from the precincts.

Under Republic Act No. 9369 or the Poll Automation Law, 10 copies of the ERs will be printed from the Precinct Count Optical Scan machines.

Of that number, six printouts will be allocated to various media groups with the "view of propagating the copies in the widest extent possible."

Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmenta said the ERs would be one of the legitimate receptors in two batches. In the first hour of transmission of the votes, eight recipients, including Congress and the Comelec, will get printed ERs.

After the Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs) shall have printed and submitted the first eight ERs to the representatives, another 22 copies will be printed for distribution to various stakeholders, Sarmenta said.

"That will come after the electronic results are sent," he added.

Sarmenta said the distribution of ERs to the media and other groups would bolster the credibility of the election results and tighten the window for vote manipulation.

"One purpose is to make it harder to change the results. This is the check and balance purposes," he said.

Jo Sia, the Comelec has allowed the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP), which is composed of television and radio networks, to get an ER copy for the use of its members. Other media outfits will also be welcome to get a printout of the ER, poll officials said.

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez, in an interview yesterday, said the law does not specify which media groups will get a copy.

"As long as they are in the precinct, they can get one," he said.

But since there will be over 80,000 precincts in the 2010 presidential and national elections, he acknowledged that it would be nearly impossible for media outfits to get one from each precinct.

Are you smarter than a 14-yr-old?

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF Mensa Philippines Inc. elected Bernie de la Pita chair during its first meeting at the UP Board in Diliman, Quezon City on July 11.

Mensa Philippines is the national organization of individuals with IQs in the top 2 percent of the population.

The new board approved a resolution setting the minimum age for Mensa testing at 14 years at the time of the IQ test. Only examinees with test scores of 98 percent and above are qualified to apply for membership in Mensa Philippines.

Also elected to the board for 2009-2010 were Jose Ramon Gonzales, vice chair; Arnel Arzaga, Whatberap Ng, Mark Endriga, Tanguy Jumalon, Dr. Rafaelita Gutierrez, Nes Bonus, Bella Benigno and outgoing Mensa president Christopher Tan, members.

Sa la Pita, a CPA with an MBA from the University of the Philippines, promised to take the local Mensa to the level of an emerging national Mensa by next year.

The board appointed the following officers: Daniel Bernardino, for membership; Charlene Mei Tan, treasurer; Whatberap Ng, secretary; Nes Bonus, publications; Gerd Bon, webmaster; and Tanguy Jumalon, ombudsman.

The induction of new officers will be held on Aug. 15 at Mandala Pelo Club at 6 p.m.

The next Mensa IQ Challenge will be held in the duel quarter with the time and place to be announced soon. Schools, offices and organizations wishing to host IQ testing done on their premises may e-mail the Mensa Philippines at info@mensaphilippines.org.

They may also contact Mensa Philippines, attn of Hernan R. de la Paz, through cell phone 0906-4900808 or e-mail mhdela paz@yahoo.com. Mensa Philippines' website is at www.mensaphilippines.org.

Salvacion L. de Venecia; 73

SALVACION "BOOTS" LOCSIN de Venecia died on July 10 at Makati Medical Center after suffering a stroke on July 15. She was 73.

She is survived by her husband of 44 years, Cesar de Venecia Jr.; Jose Cesar, Jessy and Mark; daughters-in-law Kim and Anna; and grandchildren Angelo, Dani, Andres, Naomi and Eli.

Sr. Francia was born in Silay City in Negros Occidental on June 15, 1936. She was a member of various charitable, religious and societies organizations. She was an alumna of Assumption, St. Scholastica's College and the University of the Philippines.

Her remains lie in Immaculate Conception in Parkway Park, Makati City, until July 21. Interment will be announced later.

Local executives into politics of caring GK way

Frontpage A1

colleagues in Congress for Ebdane, Grand Ballinga has become a multisectoral movement with a tweaked Robin Hood complex. Its motto—the best for the least—means those who have stuff give to those who have not may have homes and communities where they can live as decent human beings and strive for a better future.

With the support of local and global donors and volunteers, there are now over 3,000 GK villages in 608 towns in the Philippines, according to Melotu.

"We can't keep track of the number of houses but then should be over 150,000," he said, adding that GK had enough land saved for 950,000.

Marketing ruse

Immigrants, those hyphenated Filipinos who have made something of themselves in the new country, are responsible for a good number of the existing GK villages (Melotu calls it patriotic philanthropy).

Their faith in GK has as much to do with the kind of leader Melotu is now—he is not a flash-in-the-pan activist, a wounded ex-government, or a cause politician—as with the idea's.

For one, he is a brilliant marketing man out "to engage every sector of the society, to bridge social gaps, [and] to transcend partisan politics, business dealings and parochial interests" in the GK mission of nation-building.

Toward that end, Melotu organized the Bantay summit and balanced the presentations from the private sector with those and of from the national, provincial and local governments.

"I wanted to show that GK has broken the trust barrier," he said.

Melotu couldn't have done better than pick Ulay Villafuerte to talk about Camarines Sur. On the second day of the previous, before an audience of overseas Filipinos and international CEOs who least expected to be wowed by a third-generation politician and his disaster-prone province, Villafuerte proceeded to deliver the knockout—complete with a slide show and a video.

For many years, the dream for Camarines Sur was to overcome crippling poverty," said the governor, disarmingly young at 41.

He talked about a province that once knew by insurgency as if getting hit by one typhoon after another was not debilitating enough.

It was, he said, a province that could see "some within reach of progress."

Brand change

The first thing he said his team did, Villafuerte said, was to get rid of a poor image. They dropped the tattoo lengthy and trudgy name of the province and nicknamed it with something hip, something fundraising and something Most Camsur.

The minute he said it, the stateside crowd must have thought of the ocean, or the waves a la Big Stat. Quite a hook.

After the brand change, Villafuerte worked with a tough-and-ready determination to turn his largely ignored province into a global tourist destination. In so doing, he attracted investments.

Three years ago, they built the Camsur Water Complex (CWC) for wakeboarding, water skiing and other extreme water sports. Two years ago, they developed the Caramoan Peninsula, just last year, they opened the Lago del Rey Park.

Early reviews of the CWC have been good, with international publications hailing it among the best in the world. In fact, it was the venue for the 2,000 participants of the 2009 World Wakeboarding Championships.

Endowed with beaches, lakes, reefs, caves and other natural wonders, the Caramoan Peninsula achieved the apotheosis for the inspiration of some 12 million TV viewers in Europe when it was chosen as location for the reality TV show "Survivor Fenner" 2008 series. More recently, the site brought in the "Survivor Israel" cast and crew.

Lago del Rey Park, envisioned as the biggest water sports and recreational facility in the country, offers water slides, aqua mall, climbing, sailing, jet diving, kayaking and many other water sports.

Because of their world-class assets—and how Villafuerte pursued to give his audience time to catch its breath—tourist arrivals in Camsur have risen by more than 300 percent.

And it said they will come, indeed.

"We are now the country's No. 1 tourist destination, next to Boracay and Cebu," Camsur's governor announced, his bright eyes matching his smile. The audience drowned.

Bigger business

In a subsequent interview, Villafuerte proudly pointed out that "we are the only province [honored in] the front pages [photo of the Inquirer] four times in one month."

He said he and his team had put up a website that reached it as astonishing volume of business.

Also, they made their rates affordable so as not to exclude the local market. Many tourists check in from March to June. Australians fly in during their winter (June to September) and Europeans arrive during their cold months (October to March).

Villafuerte said there was no reason Camsur could not host Cebu and Boracay to tourist arrivals once it had an international airport. "Everything is cheaper in Camsur," he declared. "We also have the advantage of being accessible by land. The drive from Manila to there is beautiful."

Camsur has lured not only travelers but also investors.

SLEEPLESS WITH A VIEW: With an unobstructed mountain view, this GK tent and breakfast inn in a GK village in Camarines Sur is a come-on for the province's resurgence as a global tourist destination. Build it and they will come, indeed.

Villafuerte kicked off a list before his audience—an animation owner, the first and only one in the Philippines to make an all-digital animation film ("Dayo"); a 2,000-seat call center; the first and only one in Bicol; an English, Japanese and Korean Language institute, also the first and only one in the region; an information and technology park, the first in Bicol with three approved; and so on.

"From being the 39th poorest province, we are now the 35th richest in terms of income," he announced. "From being No. 12 in rice production, we are now the country's 8th largest rice producer."

Answer to the question

These inspired changes should have been enough to impress any crowd, but in this was a GK event, the question remained: What have you done for the least of your brethren?

Villafuerte had an answer. Through land banking, Camsur allocated 12,000 lots for its landless and homeless countrymen so that now there is a GK Village in each of its municipalities. Upon his election, without actually having met Melotu, he gave full support to GK and soon the number of GK villages in the province grew to 44.

Camsur pioneered the GK Bed & Breakfast Inns to accommodate donors and volunteers visiting GK sites, having observed studying the GK model of community-building, as well as tourists tired of the usual sightseeing and eager to meet locals, talk a cavalero and get to know the locals in the countryside (what is called "volunteer vacation" in the travel industry).

In October 2008, at the launch of the GK B&B inns in the towns of Iriga and Libmanan, Melotu and his merry band of builders declared Camsur the GK Designer Province.

The B&Bs are now a livelihood source for the GK villagers who are paid for cleaning, cooking and other hospitality services. All profits go to the GK Fund.

(Offhand, the governor disclosed another income source of income for his GK villagers: his crop cattle to be put up along the highway where there are GK communities.)

CEO mentality

"I discovered genuine public service through Grand Ballinga," the undaunted Villafuerte told his audience.

After his talk, people approached him to recommend him, some saying they had made donations to GK villages in Camsur. This was confirmed by Melotu, who said that among the provinces, Camsur had drawn the most number of donors for GK communities.

"Because people can see immediate results, we get more volunteers, corporate donors and partners from abroad who want to invest in Camsur," Melotu told the Inquirer. "[They] give things done because he has the CEO mentality. We need young leaders like him who are visionaries and will be able to get the project off the ground."

A business graduate of De La Salle University, Villafuerte is now running a flourishing export business with his wife Lara before he ran for governor and took over from his father, Luis Jr. (with whom he has had a publicity-tossed feud).

Villafuerte is only one of 20 governors who have teamed up with GK. Sibling welcomes have been elected and Cabinet officials "without judgment, as long as they adhere to our standards of integrity, transparency and accountability."

Besides donating land, government leaders help solve problems relating to taxes, road access and water supply for the developments.

Mayors et al.

Over 400 mayors have joined GK, some of whom were invited to Boston to showcase the transformations of their towns and cities.

Pembagan Mayor Jun Bernardo is only on his second term, but already has 26 GK villages in his city. Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, who is relocating 309 families from his turf to a 5.2-hectare property in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, promised free college education to their children. Freddy Tinga, Tagaytay's young mayor, preserved video documenting GK communities with lobo and landscaping. If Camsur is the GK Designer Province, Tagaytay, with 20 GK villages, is the GK Designer City.

Even national officials showed up in droves.

Vice President Noli de Castro, who hypnotized the GK Summit, is responsible for the government's housing agencies and has partnered with GK for the relocation of "informal settlers" along railroad tracks and in six provinces.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, a GK patron since 2001, is the first to sponsor three GK villages in 16 provinces through his countryside development fund. Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, head of the Senate's housing committee, has continued to work with GK alongside his father, Bukidnon Gov. Joe Zubiri, in that rocky shore are GK villages in 10 towns in their province.

The audience did not scoff but soaked in the good news, took note of the good deeds, and toasted in the wisdom of Melotu's words. "When the private sector gets to engage government on an issue, not only for the benefit of our citizens, we call it kalinga politics...the politics of caring."

As Villafuerte himself said, "Tunay Ballinga is good politics."

HEN WITH A MISSION: Camarines Sur Gov. Ulay Villafuerte and Tony Melotu, GK founder, with Pil-American supporters at the recent GK 2010 Summit held in Boston, Massachusetts. Melotu organized the summit and balanced presentations from the private sector with those and of from the national, provincial and local governments. Villafuerte is one of 20 governors who have teamed up with GK to provide homes for the homeless in their respective provinces.

Prayer for Cory like RP democracy: A work in progress

Frontpage A1

of Aquino's apostles, including her historic speech before the joint session of the US Congress on Sept. 16, 1986, "edited and enhanced" the prayer and sent it back to her for printing.

Originally printed on white bond paper, a new one was printed on yellow paper and distributed in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at Rockwell's Power Plant Mall in Makati City, where healing Masses for Tita Cory were held during her illness.

But it took the hand of one Tita Cory through every trial she has undergone, every challenge she confronted, and every crisis she took on herself—from the imprisonment, exile and assassination of her beloved Ninoy, to the liberation of our country, and the unflagging defense of freedom. Take her hand again, and ease her pain; give her, in whatever life You will give her, a measure of the infinite Joy that surely awaits those who suffer with you.

Lord Jesus, You took on our human nature to live on from the dominion of evil. Look with loving kindness and ease upon our Tita Cory who, in humble imitation of You, found in Pontius Pilate's dominion of evil in our political life. See soon, not twice but again and again, with every threat of its return.

Divine Healer, Source of wisdom and light, stay with Tita Cory the way she has always stood by Your teachings in the face of every temptation offered by power and position. In You alone she has always turned because she knows You watch the expressions of our souls as treated but to love You even more.

Blessed Mother, Mary, and protect the hands of Tita Cory, her children and her grandchildren. Let them feel, in this coming time, the grace of which Divine Mother you abound. Allay their fears and anxieties, with the promise of your constant presence and protection. Soften the pain at the sight of their mother's suffering. Let them find peace in your grace, Dear Mother of God, comfort in your love, solace and strength in your Blessed Mother's example as the question and doubt of your Son.

In the name of God, Almighty Father Who gave us Tita Cory; in the name of His Son Jesus Christ Who suffered and died for our sins; in the name of the Holy Spirit—let us pray that the whole every heartbeat it as not of Tita Cory, whose heart is full of love for God, whose mouth is a prayer and every exhalation a divine praise; let us pray that from this moment her pain will cease and she will know the perfect peace, the consuming grace, the indescribable joy of the union she has always sought to keep with God.

Dear Lord, give us the strength to bear whatever may come with the courage, fortitude, and grace that our beloved Tita Cory has shown at every crisis of her life in our nation's cause—so that our children shall honor her example and show us worthy of her devotion to God, to country, to Holy Mother Church. And to us, Whom the Road have chosen as an ordeal, remind us, Dear God, of her example. All those we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

PEP TALK Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro speaks before the troops at the Northern Mindanao Command headquarters in Cantilan, Surigao del Sur before they step out for Sulu and Basilan for an all-out offensive against the Abu Sayyaf bandits. RAFY CABA

Crush Abu, Teodoro tells troops in send-off

From page A1

Action Force (SAF).

It was the first time military and police troops were deployed jointly for combat. They will reinforce the two Marine brigade and Army and SAF deployments in Sulu and one Marine brigade and Army and SAF deployment in Basilan, Teodoro said.

During his eight-hour trip to the boat, Teodoro also visited the 1st Marine Brigade headquarters in Isabela, Basilan, to meet with local government officials and deliver a pep talk to the soldiers stationed there.

"Let's not stop. Let's intensify our counter-terror efforts here in the Basilan so we can conquer the Abu Sayyaf once and for all," he told the troops.

Manhunt

Teodoro hammered on his message when he spoke with reporters in Zamboanga City.

"We will not stop until we finish off the (Abu Sayyaf)," he said. "We can't let this golden opportunity go ... When election time comes, we might have a bigger problem."

Teodoro said the troops would have done Abu Sayyaf leaders' early pending arrest warrants at nearly their known hideouts.

"All these leaders to have standing warrants of arrest will be subject to apprehension. We will apply for search warrants to go to where they could be keeping (captives)," he said, adding:

"The Abu Sayyaf is still a threat in the entire Sulu. It has the potential to (inflict) damage very severely through actions, and not only in Basilan and Zamboanga. (I was let) this opportunity go."

Monitoring: 3 Abu chiefs

Teodoro said the leadership of the Abu Sayyaf had been weakened amid persistent government operations.

He said much of the bandits' top echelon is fixation had been "decimated," and that some 60 percent of their leaders in Mindanao had been neutralized.

According to Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, the newly installed Westmincom chief, security forces are continuing to monitor three Abu Sayyaf leaders in Jolo, Sulu, under Furod, known to be behind the most recent abductions, Dos Alexander Tiamzon and Albin Dy Alin, and Sahidulla Sahirun.

Sahidulla's case

Teodoro had earlier announced intensified operations against the Abu Sayyaf following the release on July 11 of the kidnapped Italian aid worker Eugenio Vagni.

He made the announcement in the course of discussing the proposal of Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), to grant the bandit amnesty for the sake of peace.

While addressing the troops yesterday, Teodoro again criticized Sulu Vice Gov. Sakur-dean Sahidulla for giving the Abu Sayyaf P500,000 after gaining custody of Vagni, the last of three International Committee of the Red Cross workers kidnapped in January and held captive by the bandits in Sulu.

"Giving cigarette money to terrorists is not small to your (fortune)," he said.

Teodoro has requested the Department of Justice to look into Sahidulla's legal liability for handing cash to the bandits.

'Unorthodox' action

But Sahidulla, who chairs the PNRC chapter in Sulu, has one less government agency to worry about, he said.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno yesterday said he would first try to get the facts and determine whether there was reason to proceed with the investigation of the vice governor's "unorthodox" behavior.

"From what I have seen, maybe some things might look a little unorthodox in the way things were done, but I have to have the basis of the investigation that will focus on violation of law or of the administrative code," Puno told reporters at the Kapihan sa Sulo forum.

"For the moment, there is still no investigation, at least by the DILG (Department of Interior and Local Government). There's no investigation until the premises of such will be shown to me by the proper bodies within the DILG," he said.

According to Puno, any inquiry into Sahidulla's action should not be done haphazardly, especially because the Philippines helped the hostage release through negotiations.

Helped to release hostage

"After all, the vice governor was instrumental in the release of the hostage," Puno said.

He also said the DILG decision not to investigate the vice governor for now would not in any way hamper the inquiry being conducted by the Justice department.

Sahidulla had earlier said the Abu Sayyaf had asked for "cigarette money" after freeing Vagni. She said she decided to give the kidnappers P50,000—which she said was for the bullets "heard and lodging"—to prevent any delay in his release.

She also said the money came from her own pocket, and was given out of goodwill, and not as ransom. With a report from Leila B. Salaverria

When Vicky met Winston...

From page A1

Philippine Embassy in Washington D.C.

The wedding chase has been set for Jan. 9, 2010.

Last March, Garchitorena invited close family members to her country home at the Makiapo Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas, to celebrate her birthday and as move her boyfriend in line.

Her siblings, Izah Pineda, Rose and husband Judge Oscar Leviste, Mina and husband Orbie Kalaw plus cousins Tessie Vicente, Vera Tanseco, Daisy Francisco, Tiggy and Elaine Barcelona, Bay and Helen Montes, Bee and Baby Elizalde, Gus and Sonia de Leon, Gregory Villena, Michaela de Leon and Nanai Barcelona all made the three-hour drive from Manila to Batangas.

Let the grilling begin

After a sumptuous lunch, Arpon, who is tall, dark (from playing golf) and handsome, was grilled by the Garchitorena and Pineda families. They asked him: Where and how did they meet? What is his background? What are his intentions? Where will they live?

Arpon parried the questions with his customary wit and humor.

He said he was a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1964 and had served in the United States for 28 years. A recent widower, he has two daughters and a son, who are married and reside in the States.

The starry-eyed couple said they decided to live in their Malaysian home because Arpon loves to play golf.

They will continue to travel in Asporis children live in America as do Garchitorena's daughters. They said Izah's sons Jaime, Rafael and Carlos reside in Manila.

Garchitorena, president of the Ayala Foundation, will continue to look for avenues funding for the foundation's host advocacies such as Gilas (Uniting to Internet Literacy) and Access for Students', which enable poor students to finish high school in Manila.

Incidentally, this was here the two met.

First meeting

A little over a year ago, a common friend suggested that Garchitorena—who was then visiting Washington D.C.—meet Arpon who would make a good sparring for Gilas.

Arpon was recently widowed while Garchitorena had been a widow for three years. Both ex-mates were no spark to the that initial meeting; it was all business.

Then Arpon went home to Manila for a two-month vacation. Part of his trip was to visit the Gilas school site in Loakan, Tuadu. After an initial inspection, Garchitorena's secretary asked him when she be planning to be back in Manila.

"I'm here to look for a new wife," Arpon said sarply, trying to deflect the pain of having lost his wife.

"Well, Vicky is a widow," the secretary said in jest.

Arpon replied with amusement: "Now why the hell was I not told about this?"

Like cappuccino

What started out as a business relationship developed into a friendship. The two started exchanging e-mails.

Arpon admitted he was excited at the beginning, turning his e-mail code: "Honey to Indian spot or not. I waiting in anticipation at this?"

Garchitorena's response: "Yes, reading your e-mail is a good break for me—like having a cappuccino or going to the movie-movies."

The e-mails were intelligent, humorous and regular.

Arpon, a Libra, is shy but passionate and romantic. Garchitorena, an Aries, is strong-willed but a leader. They make a good combination.

The friendship led to courtship. They were each other love letters. They exchanged pictures of their grandchildren, children and their ex-mates alone. Slowly but steadily, he had touched his way into her heart.

Then Arpon e-mailed Garchitorena a copy of the eulogy he read at his wife's funeral. In the eulogy he declared his love for his wife of 42 years, recalled her virtues and reminisced about their happy times together. He wisely touched her soul. She knew then that she could trust him.

Code names

Like e-military men, Arpon had code names for the various stages of their developing relationship. Singe one was "Getting to know you."

In one phone call, Garchitorena asked Arpon: "Where were you when martial law was proclaimed?"

Her late husband, former Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, was one of the most active and vocal prosecutors against the Marcos dictatorship.

Keeping this in mind, Arpon replied: "I was taking my manners to computer science."

That broke the ice and it became the start of many long conversations that made Arpon's phone bills a monster.

Singe two's code name was "From rivalry to reality."

This time it was Arpon who wrote Garchitorena: "What would make this a reality is that we must move in person and see where it goes from there."

First date

"Rendezvous with Reality" was the code name of their first date.

Garchitorena was aware that Arpon had chosen to observe the traditional one-year period of mourning and the respect of him for this.

Our fate had its own timetable.

In September 2008, six months from the prescribed one-year period of mourning, Garchitorena found herself in Honor City, south of San Francisco. She thought: "It was now or never-mind."

Arpon, the ardent suitor, threw caution to the wind, got on a plane and checked in at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel in San Francisco.

He phoned his lady love and they agreed to meet face-to-face—finally after five months of e-mails and wooing.

They took a walk down a wooded path which led to the river's edge. They held hands and treasured each other's tender feelings. In that instant, they knew they were meant to be together.

The proposal

Last May, just after Mother's Day, Arpon invited Garchitorena to meet his six children/their families—who were all married—in St. Williamsburg, Virginia.

Every year, Arpon and his children would spend the weekend together, watching sports tournaments and bonding.

Garchitorena and the other wives were asked to sit together in one line while Arpon and his buddies disappeared. After a few minutes, they emerged in full garb uniform, and each man was holding two red roses. They serenaded the ladies with "Build Me Up." At the end of the song, each of the men gave one rose to his wife and one rose to Garchitorena. In the end, she was holding seven roses.

Then one of Arpon's friends said: "Sir, whatever you were about to say, say it now."

"In front of my colleagues, I want to ask you a question," he began. "The reason they are all here is because I want to make sure I get the right answer. If not, I will lose face in front of them! ... I ask, with them as witnesses, Vicky, will you marry me?"

Garchitorena gave Arpon her biggest smile and said: "Yes, yes, yes."

He opened two boxes—a solitaire diamond ring studded by gems was a girlfriend and an engagement ring.

New journey

The newly engaged couple flew to Washington D.C. and had dinner with Arpon's two daughters and their husbands who slowly but warmly befriended their future stepmother.

Garchitorena's daughters, Ayen and Inel met with his family before (especially his fiancée. He gave them this speech: "I had 42 years with your mom. This was a great journey. But now I am preparing for a new journey. I want to continue my life. I am asking you to walk with me in my new journey ... I am not asking your permission to marry. I have made this decision carefully with you in consideration for the soul, it is my life I have to live."

Two months had passed after the prescribed one-year period of mourning. Arpon had kept his promise to himself and his children.

Keep the music playing

This love story ends with advice from Garchitorena and Arpon to other couples in their golden years who may want to take the plunge.

- Make sure God is present in your union.
- Baptize each other's personalities, warts-and-all, with child-like wonder.
- Compromise, as older couples tend to be in their preferences.
- Make sure you have something in common. For instance, Garchitorena and Arpon are both voracious readers, seldom given to television and charities. They love to travel, try new things and are teen-imagined. They also love sports—Arpon watching NBA to playing mahjong.
- Be up front and honest. And no calling about dead spouses that could lead to comparisons.
- Never let the sun go down with an argument unsettled.
- Avoid one last thing, and this is the loveing couple's code name for the duration of their togetherness: Keep the music playing.

'Gibo': The Senate's not worth my time

From page A1

Teodoro, who resigned from the Nacionalista People's Coalition party led by his uncle, Secretary Edwardo Cobarrubias, will take his oath as a member of the administration party on July 24.

"There's a process ... I applied [to run] for President. I did not apply for the seat so I can't be nominated for other positions because I didn't apply," said Teodoro who was on a visit to the military's Western Mindanao Command here.

"If I won't be chosen for that, too bad," he said.

Some Lakas-Kampi-CMD members have suggested that Teodoro might "slide down to senator" if he is not selected as the presidential standard-bearer.

Teodoro said running for senator was "not an option" and "not worth my time."

That may be a blow some people want, "but it's not what I want," he said.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando is one of the Lakas party leaders vying for the nomination.

Going high party leader

The 43-year-old Harvard-educated lawyer and bar topnotcher said he can find a better use for his time than becoming a senator.

"If I cannot change things, if I cannot reform things, it's not worth my time," said Teodoro, who served for three terms as the House representative for Tarlac.

One of the first of the presidential aspirants to declare his intention to run, the defense secretary, who is concurrent chair of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, was earlier accused of early politicking for appearing in public service announcements on disaster preparedness.

He has since been increasing his public profile by participating in presidential debates organized by the television networks and nongovernment organizations.

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OPINION

Like foreign bases

EDITORIAL

UNDER OUR LAWS, FOREIGNERS OR NON-FILIPINO nationals may purchase condominiums, buildings, and enter into long-term land leases. Prior to 1935, foreigners could own land. Before World War II, Japanese land leases in Davao became a hot political issue and led to the passage of the Immigration Act, still in force today.

But since the 1935 Constitution came into force, it has been an established economic and social justice principle of all our basic laws that land ownership should be restricted to Filipinos only.

Last March, President Macapagal-Arroyo said China was interested in leasing 1.2 million hectares of land. This land area alone equals the alienable and disposable public land that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had declared, back in 1963, to have been surveyed and ready for redistribution under land reform. And the President has kept as peddling public lands for foreign leases. Last December, during her visit in Qatar, the President announced the government would explore the idea of leasing at least 100,000 hectares of agricultural land in the enclaves.

The blunt global reality is this: rich countries have no space to plant food or crops for industrial use; and so, they are aggressively leasing lands in poorer countries to secure resources for themselves. To give just two examples, Kuwait in August last year granted a $5.66 million loan to Cambodia in exchange for crop production; South Korea's Daewoo Logistics in November last year announced it would invest about $6 billion to develop 1.3 million hectares in Madagascar for palm oil and corn plantations.

Talking to Focus on the Global South, Rep. Walden Bello called this development "an intersection of corrupt governments and land-hungry nations." Bello said large governments-sponsored leases are "particularly exploitive in those countries where you have a high degree of landlessness, like the Philippines where more than 60 percent of people do not have access to land."

To compound the problem, government seems to be receiving only nominal control over the process. Recently, there were reports that Jeonnam Foodstock Ltd., a company owned by the southwestern province of South Jeolla in South Korea, had leased 96,000 hectares of farmland in Mindoro for 25 years or grow 10,000 tons of corn a year for feed production. The deal ended up bogged down in confusion. The national government confessed it didn't know there was such a deal.

To be precise, the Philippine Agricultural Development and Commercial Corp. (PADCC) a government corporation attached to the Department of Agriculture, which is tasked with identifying suitable lands for agribusiness development and assisting prospective investors keen on forging joint venture deals with local farm groups and companies, told the Inquirer it had never heard of the deal. The best the PADCC could do was to say an alphabet soup of agencies ranging from the DENR to the National Food Authority of the DA would have to give their OK, too, if ever.

But one thing is sure: however dubious the genesis circumstances in Mindoro may be, the deal wouldn't have been explored in the first place by either of the two Mindoro provincial governments if it weren't in keeping with the declared policies of the national government. And this is a government that had to be shoved, kicking and screaming, to condone the unfinished business of land reform.

An unholy alliance of conservative landowners and radical-sectoral representatives tried to derail the passage of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms (Carper) altogether; but when the proponents of Carper proved they had the votes, the radical representatives were abandoned by conservative politicians who recognized they couldn't be seen as opposing farmers in an election year. Prime this perspective it's obvious that the government hopes it can redefine land reform by leasing lands to foreign governments and corporations.

This is a policy tantamount to leasing lands for foreign military bases without Senate concurrence; its implications for our food security and its terms of social justice are as deep—but this one is being pushed purely on the initiative of the chief executive.

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Remember, with relish or regret

SEPARATE OPINION

Augusto A. Cruz

TODAY I WILL NOT TALK ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION, or the Fewer Houses of Congress and the less divided Senate, or the controversial Presidency of the Philippines, or the Supreme Court and all its members appointed by the same person. I have better use my desk calendar on which I have marked the important dates of the month that I should recall to relish or regret. May I do this briefly now and inspire a thrill or two on your own?

The month of July is full of memories I must mention in this column as a loyal and loving citizen. The first is my own father, born on the 13th, who was the best father I ever had even as my youth days could have ended at the same time my own father, and (sic)daddy. Fathers are always the best for their respective sons regardless of their forgotten shortcomings. Mine expected me to be perfect and would ask me why I did not get 100 percent when I got only 95 percent, to my stepfather's distress. There was one exception, though, when I was first prize in a writing contest, and he was full of congratulations.

July 14 is especially memorable to Sally and me because that was the date of our (engagement 50 years ago. It happened when I was 17 and she was all of 16. But the date is more important for my first out Cesar and Santo for that is the time they got married. I remember that Sunday afternoon when I was relating to our guides when Cesar came to me and said without preamble: "Kuya Leon (my Kuya), dad will be leaving soon." Nonplussed, I asked, "Why, and where?" Cesar said as if it were the most obvious thing in the world, "To Santo's house. To ask her parents for her hand in marriage."

The third date I should remember is today, July 19, the 37th death anniversary of my uncle, Dr. Pablo Antonio, who was our family physician when we were young and was our next door neighbor. Whenever we felt sick, his sister and my mother summoned him to our house, and we could swear as we heard him coming up our stairs that we became perfectly well with nothing for him to cure. He taught Legal Medicine in the UP Law college and later became a lawyer himself. Once, while cycling with him in his car to heavy traffic, he suddenly jammed his brakes, endangering the other motley vehicles. He had noticed an orchidea attack.

July 24 is the birth date of my sister Laura, who was born in 1927. Originally there were eight of us in the family headed by my father and mother, who died within four days of each other in 1945. They were followed by my eldest brother Virgilio and several years later by my youngest sister Letty also said goodbye, leaving me as the only brother with my two sisters Ada and Laura.

I relate this tale of woe because it reminds me of something beautiful that happened to my sister Laura during the Japanese occupation. There was nothing romance about it as one whole summer's day Laura's beautiful tame, one night we are blacked-out houses, Laura was playing some pieces on the piano when suddenly we heard a hounding on the door. What could this mean at this late hour? Hesitantly, I opened the door and there were two Japanese soldiers standing there.

The soldiers were young, perhaps in their middle twenties, and did not look mistaking at all. They were probably students drafted from some college and one of them could even speak English. "Good evening," he said and seated for me to acknowledge his greeting. I hurriedly did, and as suddenly as I could, and asked them to come in. That broke the ice, and the other said, also in English, that they heard the piano playing and could they please listen to it some more? What a welcome explanation!

We asked them to be seated, guns and all, as they listened to the music, such as it was, played by the 15-year-old Laura with more instruments than skill. Claire de Lune was never heard like that before, but it was thoroughly to the two attentive soldiers, who listened to that piece and other songs consecutively and silently. Soon it was time for them to go, and they said their farewells with much appreciation, saying they would like to come back soon for another pleasant evening. They never did.

The last important date on this month of its 31st is the 26th, which is the birth anniversary of Cesar's Annie. She was my favorite daughter in her heyday of our common interest in books and also because she looked like a lovely Chinese princess. One night the family was invited to dinner in a favorite restaurant but without Cesar and Annie, who it seemed one had not been notified about the affair. We had to treat them separately to make up for Sally's unseemly mistake. I remember it especially now because Annie is no longer with us, having passed away seven years ago.

Now, I must close this piece on memorable things about July that happened many years ago. I remember them with not a little wistfulness for those little incidents have somehow influenced my life and given it a little meaning and perhaps some flashback adventure, like colonized original black and white kodak pictures taken when I was young. I am sorry for having taken up your valuable time, but I had hoped that these little reminiscences would have you look to your own past and make you also remember, with relish or regret.

Slow down

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A FOLKSMAN who stopped a guy for over speeding at 2 a.m. His excuse was that he was rushing for a lecture.

"At 2 a.m., a lecture?" was the policeman's query.

"Yes, sir," the guy hastened to say, "because my wife is waiting for me to give me a lecture for coming home late; and if she learns about this speeding ticket, I'm sure she will give me not only a lecture, but a sermon!"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk. 6, 30-34), Jesus gathers His weary disciples in a deserted place: "to rest a while." Aren't many of us so busy and weary with work, always rushing to beat deadlines, or to get to meetings, lectures, seminars and what have you? Don't we all need to "rest a while"?

* * *

When we feel tired and exhausted, we need to take a rest. We must accept our human limitations. We are not gods. Human as we are, we need to withdraw from our worldly concerns once in a while, to recharge, and then go back again. To do otherwise is folly. To do otherwise is playing god, which we are not. The master we learn this in life, she learns.

Slow down, you are moving too fast. Slow down, you're going too far. Come to think of it, a lot of us get so caught up in the rat race and even begin to live like rats. The Lord reminds us again today that life is not so much about going fast or far, but going to the heart.

* * *

The bottom line is that we are just instruments, somewhat tools at that. In other words, it is God's work, not ours. More than being so focused on the work of God, let us focus on the God of our work. Instead of being so engrossed in our mission for God, let us focus on the God who called us for a mission. We are important, yes, but none of us is indispensable in God's eyes.

In just be, to take time, and to stop.

* * *

Talk about taking time, Lino Sanvicente and his seven siblings, together with their families came home from all over the world for a family reunion this July to be with their widowed mother, not to speak to anyone but to their love for her, but also to anyone her of their love for one another in a healing prayer session with the whole family. A lot of tears were shed, a lot of jeans were cleaned, and a lot of love was shared as they took time and really reached out in humility saying "Thank you," "I'm sorry" and "I love you" to each other. Yes, let us take time, precisely because we don't have much time left.

* * *

PHILIPPINE EVI CENTENNIAL MOMENT: World-class architect Jun Palafox, an SVD ex-seminarian (EVE), has made the difficult decision not to appeal his case of trafficking to go to jail for a libel suit filed against him by officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) in his crusade against the cutting of trees by a Korean company that wants to put up a casino hotel in Subic. "I owe this to the values I learned from our founder, St. Arnold Janssen, and from my brothers with the SVDs, to love others, country and our planet earth. It is time for us all to sacrifice, and speak out against all acts of corruption in our land," declared Jun. Proud of you, and one with you, Jun, in this our centennial year!

* * *

Benny Mamaila invites you to a lay forum on "Diabetes: Its Cause and Prevention," on July 25, 2009 at Antonio Hall, Christ the King Seminary, E. Rodriguez Jr., Quezon City, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. For inquiries please call 37732262, 33166866 or 09174167849.

* * *

A moment with the Lord.

Lord, remind me that life's journey is not about going fast, nor going far, but going in the heart. Amen.

For or against Cha-cha

MANY HAVE POINTED[1] ASKED: ARE YOU FOR or against Charter change (Cha-cha)? Our 1987 Constitution is not perfect. So, like many well-meaning citizens, I am in favor of perfecting it. But like everything else, the right thing should be done in the right way at the right time and for the right reasons. Process, timing and motive are as important as substance.

The right way: The 1987 Constitution provides three ways or modes of change: (1) people's initiative, (2) (2) constituent assembly (Con-ass) and (3) constitutional convention (Con-con). Congress—since 2006—has declared emphatically that any mode to draft our system of government from the presidential to the parliamentary via the Pi. However, the Supreme Court struck down Arroyo, due to constitutional and legal flaws.

The Court held that a people's initiative is not in accordance with the people power, hence, only the people themselves can use it, if their expressions feel or refuse to heed their chance for Charter change via the two other methods (Con-ass and Con-con). The PI procedure prescribed by the Constitution and the Comelec Resolution 6735 is massive in duty-charged, time-intensive and resources may be the object of a PI. Complicated provisions allowing the philosophy nature or structure of the government are not allowed under this mode.

Under the Con-ass mode, Congress itself, "upon a vote of three-fourths of all its members," may directly propose the Charter changes. Last June 3, the House of Representatives approved by viva voce vote House Resolution 1109 proposing the calling of a Con-ass, thereby making many people nervous and angry.

However, I think the resolution did not give any legal advantage to the proponents. First, with or without it, Congress may still propose constitutional revisions. Hence, it is really a superfluity. Second, it merely repeated the inability of the presidential bloc. Congress. HR 1109 was not voted by three-fourths of votes just the lower house. Hence for those, it got rejected opposition to the Con-ass and increased the credibility of the administration.

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

On the third mode, the Constitution says that Congress may call a Con-con "by vote of two-thirds of all its members," and in such case, it leaves the question of calling such a convention, "by majority vote of all its members." The earliest that a Con-con could be convened is after the 2010 elections. Electing Con-con delegates during the 2010 elections would reflect the country-wide sentiment on the matter.

The right time and reasons. Indeed, many provisions of our present system Constitution need revisiting. However, a shift to the parliamentary system has gotten hardly-negative reaction because of the nagging suspicion that it is being misused to perpetuate certain officials. For the June 1992 survey on June 19-22, 70 percent of our people are against extending the reign of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Purely objectively studying too six proposals for the federal system, the unicameral legislature and the relocation of the national capital were championed by Speaker Prospero Nograles. Then, there are the many blanks to fill up when the Constitution speaks of "as prescribed by law."

Our people are wary of Cha-cha before the 2010 elections, especially after a new president shall have been sensibly elected, our people I think would be willing to listen to proposed changes that are ad hoc and well reasoned.

Because many of these proposals require Congress' unity, a Con-con—whose members are elected, or even jointly appointed or proposed by lawyer Nonnatus Macalintal—should be the preferred Cha-cha mode. I believe that evolving a constitution that shall truly embody the aspirations and ideals of our people require the full time and attention of officials elected or appointed precisely for that purpose only.

Some say that a Con-con is expensive. I say however, that since we now pay billions for the election, computerization, allowances and push buttons of robots who enjoy ordinary base, should we not pay for worthy projects for better choices and safe promotion for allowances and push buttons of delegates who would revise the most fundamental of our laws?

In sum, I favor the convening of a Con-con composed of delegates chosen after the 2010 elections.

* * *

Congratulations to Dino Custodio O. Padade for having been named Philippine representative to the International Court of Arbitration with site in Paris, under the auspices of the International Chamber of Commerce. This is an international recognition of his lifetime devotion to the cause of arbitration. Our Supreme Court encourages arbitration because it is a speedy method of settling disputes out of unclogging court dockets.

He was my classmate in the University of the Philippines Benitez-Padade Ateneo and Santiago (Padade) from 1962. One law firm was dissolved in 1990 when I joined the Supreme Court. Two law offices emerged later one founded by Padade and the other by Sycip Salazar Feliciano Hernandez & Sycip. Both outstanding law offices at the Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Padade No. 4 in the 1958 bar examinations. All of us started as associates in the law office of Dr. Antonio Subido.

Dino is married to Cielito Habito, a multi-talented woman who is a former Socialist Secretary, head never a few years back when the Philippine International Airport Terminals Corp. (Piatco) brought arbitration proceedings before it against the Philippine government to press its claims over Terminal III of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The case is pending up to now.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dbc@inquirer.com.ph and/or email.com

Growing up with Harry

WHAT MAKES THE "HARRY POTTER" PHENOMENON so special is that creator J.K. Rowling allows for the growing maturity of her readers, who may begin their journey with the boy wizard in their Tweens," and conclude it in their late teens or early adulthood.

And so, while most other writers of juvenile fiction keep their characters forever frozen in child mind-set, Rowling matures Harry Potter along with his readers, taking us along as he develops his own person, challenges the adults in his life, awakens to the delights and depression of early interactions and romance, and rises to his own personal greatness.

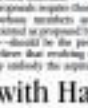
Especially challenging were the words midway through the series when adult readers had to cope with their annoyance and impatience as an adolescent Harry ignored the sage advice of his elders and plunged pell-mell into one misadventure or another. Whether it was his failure to heed Dumbledore's warnings or readers who have children of their own. My own children, whose involvement with Harry follows the arc of his development, found the middle novels especially absorbing, perhaps because they, too, were experiencing the angst of adolescence.

The evolution of Harry Potter and those of the other characters in the novels, particularly his best friends Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger, is best reflected in the films adapted from the books. Rupert Grint's Ron Weasley and Emma Watson's Hermione literally growing up before our eyes. Daniel Radcliffe has grown restless and has lost the air of innocence he once sported. Super Girl has likewise grown taller, although he still dotes lovingly with his expression of befuddlement. Emma Watson has blossomed into a lovelier, more poised and graceful, no wonder Ron falls completely hopeless for Hermione!

Otoño Mallen, Harry's nemesis at Hogwarts, a private movie play on his installment...attempting to carry out a clearly exaggerated portrayal of Draco Goldwasser, and as Tom Felton, who in previous movies did nothing more than smirk and scowl, gets to show off some acting, too.

* * *

BUT it's the adult characters who've given more



AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

meaty roles to enjoy. Richard Harris as Albus Dumbledore did little more than try to look paternal and regal as the eloquent headmaster, but in "Half-Blood Prince" he gets to portray a wider range of emotions and shades of evil and sensibility. Jim Broadbent, as the seamy potions teacher Horace Slughorn, adds a touch of humanity to his broadly-written persona. While Alan Rickman, as the cold and unwelcoming Severus Snape, is perfect for the role, especially with his long nose and sneering mouth.

I remember that while reading the book I was constantly in the grip of an unbearable dread, the sense of foreboding permeating every page. That sense of impending danger and doom was present in the movies, too, even if it spans with a dramatic sequence as the Death Eaters attack a pedestrian bridge in London filled with innocent "Muggles."

But what I do like about the film is the silent scenes in between the more dramatic ones, which established—their sensitivity to people around them, their confusion and pain at their thwarted romances, their realization that as with everyone else, time will come when they will have to face their demons and dilemmas on their own.

Last month, my appreciation for the film's storydirector David Yates did justice to the game of "Quidditch," which in previous movies had only been shown cursorily or so confusingly it was difficult to make out just how it is played. In "Half-Blood Prince," we see more important details, like the game, appreciating the grace and athleticism needed to get those golden balls flying past the guards and into the goals.

* * *

AFTER CATCHING the movie on the first night of its commercial run, I was overcome with nostalgia for the entire franchise, including the final novel. "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" comes out in August. Bring it on.

Popular opinion holds that "Half-Blood Prince" is the best movie in the series yet, although my daughter says her personal favorite is "Prisoner of Azkaban," mainly because it introduced Sirius Black and Professor Lupin. Me, I'll agree with the movie in the series is the first one, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," even if the popular verdict is that it was "too faithful" to the book, and "much too cutesy," as my daughter declares.

But I'll always have a soft spot in my heart for the first movie, the books, and the movies—no much. I love the book mainly because it introduced us to Harry and to the alternative universe of wizard-land, with all its clever silly names and puns on real life. And I love that the movie retained for us scenes we would only imagine in the book, and presented us with a "real" Harry and his friends, and all the lovable characters that were born in JK Rowling's imagination.

Then again, maybe the reason I am so fond of the first book and movie is that Harry himself was but an infant when I started reading and watching acceptance among the wizards, and finally finding out who he is and why he "lived"—because his parents saved his life. It was, in short, for me kind, a time of innocence, a time most precious.

* * *

ON FRIDAY, July 24, alumni and past and present faculty members of the College of Economics and Management of UP Los Baños will gather at the Valle Verde Club House (near Ortigas Shopping Center) for the college's 33rd founding anniversary.

Dean Leny Cabanilla of the CEM will deliver the opening remarks while UP president Emerlinda Roman will give a special message. As for the keynote speaker, Energy Campaign will be launched, with incoming CEMEA president Colin Delgado doubtless leading the campaign.

Those attending are requested to confirm their presence with Prof. Nanette Aquino (0905-5453081; 0049(30)8620463) before July 23.

Anatomy of a revolution delayed

THE ONGOING CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN'S rulers and the Iranian public is the result of a head-on collision between two irreconcilable forces. In recent years, public attitudes in Iran have become more liberal. At the same time, power has shifted from conservative pragmatists toward a much more militant fundamentalist elite. As a result, the gap between state and society has become so large that the election results to be chosen over it has the latest sign of the flight back of both the reformist and pragmatic conservative factions.

Thirty years after the Islamic revolution, Iranians are more educated, more urban, more wired and more liberal. This fact is from surveys of more than 2,500 Iranian adults, conducted in 2000 and 2005, clearly show the trend. The percentage of those who "strongly agree" that democracy is the best form of government increased from 20 percent to 34 percent.

Similarly on a number of questions concerning gender equality—including political leadership, equal access to higher education, and "utility elections"—the numbers continued a downward trend. Those who consider it "not important" at all must have increased from 49 percent to 69 percent, while those who depended on parental approval fell from 43 percent to 26 percent. In 2005, a much higher percentage than in 2000 disagreed with statements, "women should stay at home" rather than "Muslim, please do."

This trend is not hard to understand. The imposition of a monolithic religious discourse on society has made liberal values attractive to Iranians. For those who are reflected in reformist trends in the country's wider political life, a movement toward militant fundamentalism took shape within the regime's power structure. Reform-minded politicians were partly to blame for this change. Far from opposing absolutist power as they had promised in their election campaigns, they tend to persuade the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, of the value of reform.

WORLD VIEW

Mansour Moaddel

But Khamenei had no interest in reform, as he made plain in dismantling the reform movement. The presidency of Mohammad Khatami, an avowed reformer, who served eight years, beginning in 1997, contributed significantly to the shift in the authority would be assumed only if the presidency was held by a subservient fundamentalist such as the current president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. In this, Khamenei was following the lead of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who, in the early, a loyal student, as prime minister from 1980 until the Shah was overthrown in 1979.

The problems with the Supreme Leader's calculations, however, is that Ahmadinejad is a loose cannon. His popular rhetoric and religious fundamentalism have alienated a large segment of conservative pragmatist elites and their supporters.

Many members of this group honor the institution of private property and Ahmadinejad's talk of redistributing wealth is not to their liking. Most disturbing to them is his apocalyptic prediction regarding the imminent advent of the Hidden Imam, the Mahdi, whose appearance is believed to lead to the destruction of the world and the end of Islam. Generally, Ahmadinejad begins his public speeches—even those addressed to heads of state—with provocative pragmatist clichés and their supporters.

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Not for this religious minority, long accustomed to relegating the advent of the Mahdi to a distant future, Ahmadinejad's imminent millennialism is troublesome. They have often dismissed as unorthodox, if not heretical, any claim of precise knowledge of the Mahdi's arrival. Several ayatollahs opined that such talk about the Mahdi is unbecoming of a serious

The talented Mr. Villar

THE INSOLENT IS FIRM.

"Let me say, in no uncertain terms: There will be elections in 2010. There's your headline for tomorrow!"

It's a country where we doubt even the sincerity of the half-naked 6-year-olds who beg for coins at our windows, there is no sound for the sort of nonsense we must be to unconditionally believe the nation's chief executive, who is guilty of some of the same crimes.

METHOD TO MADNESS

Patricia Evangelista

Yet Arroyo is perhaps unchallenged on what constitutes a democracy. It is precisely that right to question—citizenly, consistently, fearlessly—that measures the vibrancy of a democracy. It flies in the face of logic for anyone to claim commitment to the upholding of a democratic state, and still persist on defining what issues can or cannot be questioned. It is the same twisted logic that had former Senate Secretary Raul Gonzalez declare in 2006 that the "sovereignty of the Philippines should have its budget cut because "that school," by constantly opposing government, is "degrading the national interest."

Perhaps it is this administration's unwillingness to be questioned—or to deny once questioned, as was demonstrated by Congo Fernandez and his valiant defense of the purity of the President's breasts—that has permitted other competitors for the presidential post to do the same. I speak, of course, of the good Sen. Manuel Villar, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, the lone billionaire in the Senate, he of the estimated Chess public relations campaigners and four advertising agencies handling his campaign, whose heavy-handed financing of his bid for the 2010 presidency is eclipsed only by his campaign of national omnipresence. This, after all, is the gentleman accused of P400 million in graft in a Senate ethics complaint that his real estate empire had benefited from a C-5 road extension project in Las Piñas City. The same gentleman implicated in his own Senate ethics hearing, and continues to refuse invitations to national forums.

There are those who say that the good senator is afraid of being asked tough questions regarding various controversies attributed to him: 400, for example, invited Villar to the Senate hearings on the NBN-ZTE deal on May 15, but declined worldwide. The senator now has regrets—saying he would be out of the country—and was later seen at the Supreme Court party of a enticing justice. He also declined the second forum invitation, again claiming to be traveling with his wife overseas. Offered another date, the senator still did not appear. He has been interviewed, in short-notice television broadcasts, he was also conspicuously absent last Thursday, when the Parish Pastoral Council on Good Governance gathered together all possible presidential aspirants at Pinas Wizards, in a forum that pushed through in spite of the crushing rain.

And huge he was "out of the country."

Because, Villar says, over and over of time. Where finally reached by reporters, Villar cited as the reason was his presence in Ivanna, which he said however only an what the candidate plans to do and not on what he has already done—a convenient statistic that I believe many news anchors in particular should be constitutionally coerced by interrogating Villar about his C-5 advantages.

Nationalista spokesperson Gilbert Remulla says coming to everything. Villar, he says, is only waiting for the proper time to appear.

Villar has made no secret of his intent to run, a perfectly laudable decision compared to the custom of his colleagues. Remulla claims that he has Villar down as 11 months of national forums does not mean he is not accountable. Anyone, I'm willing to talk about my platform." Villar says in turning in the deluge of commercials he has been flooding various networks, while discussing his successes at the bottom with his friends. A country club. It is not the role of the senator to be loud in the manner of a used car salesman and talent manager Boy Abunda as happily poses in a recent commercial.

Remulla says that the senator is only choosing where to appear. It is no excuse that is illogical from the perspective of a candidate, whose goal, after all, is to reach as many of the country's 50 million voters as possible. It is no excuse, I am certain that his usual term hostia give the impression the senator can shake hands, kiss babies, and relate with the masses, and it is not a bad thing, but frankly, it appears not as sincere as the millions of pesos worth commercials. Not because of the small forums, but because of his avoidance of the real issues. It is not because of Villar's evasive advertising his way to Malacañang, but I do know that by dictating the reach of the forums he attends, and demanding the formats by which he should be questioned—Remulla says Villar is at his best on one-on-one interviews—Villar essentially declares the questions that he should be asked. Given his track record, it is an interesting list.

He claims that it is only in intimate, town hall-style meetings where he feels at home, away from the glaring lights of televised forums for 2/4 presidential hopefuls. I suspect very few would accuse the man who believed in the House of Representatives in 2000 while presiding a grand "sky" party.

There is finally a year before the 2010 elections. Remulla—himself a former journalist—was correct when he said timing is everything. This is the time to ask for answers, to demand accountability, before another president takes behind the power of Malacañang, announcing that to ask questions is to challenge democracy.

* * *

In the interest of full disclosure, the writer is an executive producer for ABC.

THEY SAID

Second chance

"There might have been instances in his career where he might have gone against military rules and regulations, but everybody's given an equal chance to prove himself."

—Armed Forces spokesperson Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr. on the appointment of Brig. Gen. Joselito Vellano, who had taken part in a coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino, as commander of the Philippine Marines

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Welcome!

His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al-K

Prime Minister, Kingdom of Bahrain

Conferred by
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
the country's highest form of recognition
The Order of Lakandula
with the rank of Supremo (Grand Collar).

We thank you

for your invaluable intervention that led to the release
of Filipino hostages Angelo dela Cruz and Robert Tarongoy,
the commutation of the death sentence
of Marilou Ranario and May Vecina,
for your benevolent leadership which paved the way
for 45,000 Filipinos now working and making Bahrain their second h

We laud you

for your exceptional leadership and outstanding dedication
to the fostering of mutual understanding and cooperation
between our two countries.
Above all, we appreciate your many acts of kindness to Filipino
We wish you continued success.

AMA
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The Largest Private International University in the Middle East

Please send feedback to ... Editor Juan N. Sarmiento Jr.

TALK of the TOWN

AN INSINGER Iranian protesters clench her fist...as she cowers her face in front of burning public trash bins during a recent opposition rally in Tehran, Iran. Hundreds of young men and women chant "death to the dictator," confronting police who would harass and fire tear gas in the capital as opposition activists vow to renew street protests despite authorities' warn ne "break" any new marches.

How to open an account

1. Go to Twitter.com

2. Click on "Get Started to Join" and follow the procedures

3. This will open in a window that will ask you to provide "Full Name, Username, Password and E-mail, etc."

4. Once you've provided details, it goes to the next page, asking you to find up with friends using Twitter. You may skip this step and click on "Finish" to start tweeting!

5. You can now post your first tweet to the space provided just below the question, "What are you doing?"

6. Click on "Update" and you're just made your first tweet. Congratulations!

7. You now have the option to search for friends using the "Find People" link in the upper right corner of your screen or peeping into other people's tweets by clicking on the "Trending Topics," which is located at the right portion of the screen.

8. You may set your Twitter account to work with your mobile phone by clicking on the "Turn on your mobile phone" link on the list of procedures. (Note that this will mean additional charges on your mobile phone.)

Erwin S. Oliva

TWEET IT!

Starting a revolt in 140 characters

By Erwin S. Oliva

WITH THE IRANIAN government clamped down on communications following the controversial presidential election on June 12, citizens gravitated toward Twitter, a growing Internet service created in 2006.

Yes, Twitter. Sounds like a bird chirping by your window, right? Well, the name was partly inspired by birds. But this Internet service has no relation to our feathered friends.

Twitter (originally codenamed rant, as in Flickr) was founded by Jack Dorsey, Evan Williams and Biz Stone. As part of existing Internet companies, one of the cofounders, Dorsey, had an epiphany. He thought of an Internet service that lets friends stay in touch via the Internet or mobile phone and by answering a simple question: "What are you doing?"

Followers

In its 140 characters or less, you should be able to tell friends (known as followers in Twitter lingo) what you're doing. Incidentally, the length of a text message (called a tweet—OK it does sound like a bird) is the same length as a text message sent using a mobile phone. That connection will play a big role among mobile phone-using Filipinos.

While Twitter is a Web-based service, it works with mobile phones (yes, just like texting), as instant messenger, and of course, the Web.

It's free but if you're sending or receiving a "tweet" through the mobile phone, one needs to pay the regular fees for sending text messages. (To be succinct when sending tweets, and make sure they're not going to waste space—just like when you send the reply "K" for OK).

Like SMS

So how does Twitter work?

Let's use an example that is closest to our hearts or pockets. Standing in front of your TV or sending a text message. But unlike a text message, which is usually a one-on-one communication tool, Twitter allows you to broadcast messages to all followers, or people subscribed on your Twitter account. (See How to open an account.)

Its imagine sending a single blast of SMS or text messages to 100 followers. (Text can actually do the same with, but you might be accused of spamming.) In an instant, your followers will know what's on your mind. Now you might not like the idea of letting people know what you're doing via this medium. However, you might be surprised to find that people actually tweet what they ate for breakfast, their many short work (quick, the boss is looking!), and their recent finds (including news, links to photos, videos, websites, etc.

What makes this service fun is that it allows interaction. Your followers can talk back (usually you are privy to/suggestions there, your messages). They can also forward your tweets to their own followers (especially if they find it interesting, but hopefully not annoying).

You can either open a browser using your mobile phone or iPhone (which is more expensive or whatever works for you) or use a designated mobile number (which you can text your tweet.

Geeks, celebrities

In the beginning, Twitter was the realm of techno-geeks and the Internet savvy crowd. (No surprise there since this is a creation of geeks who still rule the Net.) But in recent years, it has caught on, and is, in fact, getting users in droves from media, celebrities and recently the US State Department.

Fast-forward to June 12. The Iranian government decided to literally cut off people from the rest of the world. This was after supporters of opposition candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi took to the streets to protest alleged rigging of the presidential election.

Blow-by-blow accounts

For obvious reasons, the citizens' frustrations and discontent found their way to Twitter. Considering that media coverage was almost nil during these times, the tweeters who tweeted also became the reporters, delivering blow-by-blow accounts of what was happening in Iran.

In a post-protest article titled, "Iran Protests: Twitter, the Medium of the Moment," posted on its website, Time celebrated the role of Twitter in promoting democracy.

"After the election in Iran, tens of protests from supporters of opposition candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi arose in all possible media, but the loudest cries never heard in a medium that didn't even exist the last time Iran had an election.

Built to spread fast

"So what exactly makes Twitter the medium of the moment? It's free, highly mobile, very personal and very quick. It's also built to spread, and fast," the Time article read.

It is truthful, the article has encapsulated the lure of Twitter. It's free, highly mobile (good for breaking news), very personal (what's for breakfast?) and very quick (which is self-explanatory). It is also built for spread, a feature that is attracting more news services.

But how do people promote Twitter in our shrinking, almost flat world? Or to be more specific, how do people use Twitter's role in shaping democracy? Well, in the spirit of tweeting, I posed the question on Twitter and Facebook (a social networking service).

In a matter of minutes, I got several answers from a former university professor now living in Australia and a journalist based in Malaysia (that's instantaneous feedback you don't get on blogs, unless you're Julian Assange who has 2.7 million followers to date of writing Ignacio's).

"Twitter and other Web 2.0 technologies such as Facebook and YouTube have opened the international public sphere for dialogue and interaction generation," says Gina Dalisay who has migrated to Australia.

Dalisay says Twitter "opened up spaces for dialogue and discussion [that] transcended local and traditional [...] real time (i.e. messages, here, etc.) barriers."

First Twitter revolt

The former UP professor says the Iranian protest is "arguably the first Twitter revolt" launched by citizens themselves who took up the catapult (for the opposition) in placing the issue on a global public sphere."

"Can any Filipino take the challenge of placing genuine reforms [on the global public sphere] using this medium?" Dalisay says.

Twitter user Clary Mondejar-Bagsit points out that people feel "closer" to the person they are following on Twitter. "Even if the politicians want some semblance of connection, then they should be tweeting otherwise ... they're just strangers ," she adds.

Indeed, Twitter has gone beyond letting followers know what you had for breakfast. In Malaysia, just earlier David Gilmore shares the story of members of the Internet tweeting about opposing views.

"Two Malaysian MPs from opposite sides of the House [...] 'twittered' [during] the opening session of Parliament [...] their different opinions [on] the House's handling of a constitutional issue concerning the legitimacy of a state government whose electoral legitimacy is still highly contested and has changed sides several times since the last general election due to political party defections. Live TV broadcasts are not allowed from Parliament in Malaysia," Gilmore writes in reply to the question I posted on Facebook.

Global multicast

Former government executive Damian Mapa also replied to my question:

"Since a key premise of democracy is that the elected representatives are answers of a clear, transparent and honest electoral process, I therefore posit the use of Twitter and other Web 2.0 technologies in creating a round-assisted global multicast that follows the entire recap of election activities since the start 11 months.

"[It should begin] with the deployment and field tests of the counting machines, to voter registration and education events in various towns and barangays, to election day monitors at polling stations continuously, to the final vote tabulation, to the canvassing, to the canvassing results, and to the eventual proclamation and concession announcements from the victors/candidates," he says.

"After the elections, the continued use of these technologies to track the performance of these elected representatives [should serve] as input in the next electoral cycle," he adds.

Another Facebook reply in my question from Elena Labitoc provided the exclamation mark to what everyone has said: "A tweet is a democratic chore."

Philippine setting

Who are tweeting in the Philippines? Filipino blogger and journalist Alexis Tiker (@alexis) reminded me this link to the top 20 (or perhaps the most popular) Twitter profiles in the Philippines. Point your browser to: http://twitterholic.com/top140.followers/lang/tl/Philippines/.

By the looks of this list (which does not totally provide us an accurate picture of the number of Twitter users in the country), a majority are bloggers, or at least they are tech-savvy users who blog, tweet, or Plurk (another microblogging service like Twitter that is also popular).

But just to give you an idea how huge Twitter is and how it's affecting our lives, it says about 88 percent of the web traffic on the service is coming from international users.

About 40 percent of that international traffic comes from Japan, while Spain and the United Kingdom account for 11 and 10 percent, respectively. (Note: these figures are based on 2008 statistics: http://blog.twitter.com/search/label/stats). It didn't have anything on the Philippines.

Computer-aun says Twitter is the third most-used social network service, with about 46 million unique monthly visitors, second only to Facebook and MySpace.

It's clear, however, that Twitter is becoming a way of life, especially for Filipinos who are increasingly spending countless hours online.

As one unofficial Philpedia entry on Twitter declares: "Twitter is a way of life. It's living with a pathetic policy. It's friends, humans and country people the world over [who are] engaged in timely snippet conversations (but 140 char 140 character chunks."

INQUIRER Mindanao

E-mail: [illegible]
Website: [illegible]

Editor Jun Bautista
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Politics soils probe of death squads

NOGRALES

DE LIMA

DUTERTE

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

FR. AMADO PICARDAL, WHO'S BEEN FIGHTING FOR THE LAST 10 years to put a stop to summary executions here, should have been ecstatic at the arrival of hundreds of students at the launching early this month of "You Can Die Anytime," a book published by the New York-based Human Rights Watch that details the operations of the Davao Death Squad (DDS), supposedly a vigilante group.

But he wasn't happy. He was stressed, drained. His biggest fear might be coming true—that politics was starting to destroy a 10-year crusade against the murderous campaign of taboo crackdown on his faceless vigilantes.

Not long was entered about some 100 students of the University of Southeastern Philippines coming to the book launching at the Ateneo de Davao University except that they are all relatives of Speaker Prospero Nograles.

They had been told to attend the launching and celebrate human rights.

Supporters of Nograles came along, wearing blue shirts with the Speaker's name printed on them.

Human rights advocates saw the connection. It explained why the group of students is now relentlessly vocal on summary killings in the city, which has been blamed for the deaths of more than 900 suspected petty criminals, many of them barely in their teens.

Nograles' political arch-rival, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, has repeatedly denied involvement in the DDS.

"Yes, there are killings," he had told the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) at the start of its investigation of the DDS in March, "but summary killings ... I do not know."

"If there is an iota of evidence that we are involved in the killings, I will voluntarily resign, at the end of the day, my resignation as city mayor of Davao, especially in the matter of the killings of minors," Duterte had said.

Nograles, who is on his third and final term as lawmaker, is expected to run for mayor of Davao City next year against Duterte's daughter Sara, who is the city's vice mayor.

Duterte may seek a congressional seat and run against Nograles' son and chief of staff, Karlo.

'Politically motivated'

Since the CHR conducted its investigation—concluding that the killing machine is being aided by powerful city police execs—not a few Davaoenos thought that someone big was backing the agency.

People close to Duterte, including his daughter, saw politics behind the investigation.

CHR Chair Leila de Lima expressed disquiet over the insinuations.

"I don't like it. I categorically deny the claims that our investigations on the DDS operations is politically motivated and backed by Nograles. We are only doing this in pursuance of our mandate. All we want is to get to the bottom of this," she said.

Nograles branded the talk as political black propaganda.

"We will get to the bottom of this as soon as possible. Guilty like black propaganda because I have been out of the country all this time," he said.

Bato complaint

Just last week, a division at the Manila City jail filed criminal charges against Nograles, De Lima and several high-ranking police officers for taking him out of jail without a court order on July 8.

Jonathan Bala, who was suspected of killing a policeman in the Garden City of Samal in 2005, said in a sworn statement that he was "delivered from jail, bribed and intimidated, for [the] purpose of executing a confession and obtain[ing] some information from me."

Bala said he was brought in a flying range in Davao City, where he was asked to pinpoint the site of some graves of supposed DDS victims.

One of those who interrogated him asked if his was Dranny Bala. He said he was not.

Dranny Bala, according to sources, was a suspect in the killing of Jerry Nepomuceno, 51, in Puerto Princesa City in Davao City. Nepomuceno was an area coordinator of Duterte's local political party, Hugpong sa Tawong Lungsod.

Exhumation

Five days after the "serving" Bala was brought out of jail. De Lima flew to Davao City to oversee the exhumation of remains in two graves inside the firing range owned by Restituto Lind, a retired policeman and elder brother of Loreta Lind, barangay chair of Mau and known Nograles ally.

The CHR said the remains were those of victims of the DDS. De Lima said the discovery of the graves was made possible by a former DDS insider, one of the witnesses that the commission would use in filing charges against officials involved in the killings.

Bala said the name of Nograles was dropped by his police escorts on their way to Davao City. One of them, the inmate said, told him that if he joined and cooperated with them, Nograles will take care of him, reportedly in resolving his case.

At the firing range, Bala said, the police officers made phone calls to someone they called Mochan De Lima.

The CHR chief denied having made any request to the police to take Bala. "I am against any irregularities ... If we needed him in our investigations, it would have been as who went in on him," De Lima said.

"I am surprised why I am being involved in this case, but at the same time, I am not surprised because I know, given the sensitivity of our investigation, a demolition job is expected," she added, without elaborating.

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Across the NATION

Kenney: Mindanao war pulling RP down

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—WAR IN Mindanao is "like an anchor" pulling the entire Philippines down, according to US Ambassador Kristie Kenney.

Kenney, in a speech at a homecoming of alumni of the Congressional Internship Program for Young Muslim Leaders (CIPYML), said peace in Mindanao was crucial not only for the Philippines, but also for the United States.

The CIPYML is a program indirectly funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Lasting peace

Philippine development, she said in the homecoming held at the Marco Polo hotel here, depended on the resolution of the wars rebellion and having peace in Mindanao.

"Until Mindanao achieves its potential, until Mindanao is peaceful and prosperous, it will be like an anchor dragging the rest of the Philippines down," she said.

US AMBASSADOR Kristie Kenney strikes a pose with graduates of an internship program that was indirectly funded by the US government. Kenney addressed a homecoming of the graduates in Davao City.

"The Philippines will never see its great potential until Mindanao does. And that is important for America because the Philippines is one of our oldest allies and partners," she added.

"For us to see a third of this nation not achieving its potential, not living in peace, a third of this nation unable to use their products to market, unable to see their young leaders progressing, it hit us not only a great heartache but in fact, it's not good for America at all, then," Kenney said.

She said the violence that regularly rips through many parts of Mindanao is "also not good for any of our security."

Development assistance

"Any day that there are bombs that go off as we've seen recently across Mindanao is a bad day for all of us. So for us, Mindanao is incredibly important," Kenney said.

She said this was the reason the US government poured almost two-thirds of its development assistance to Mindanao.

Possibilities

"In short, the possibilities for Mindanao are exceptional. The perils are also great," she said.

Kenney said the US government wants to see more American businessmen in Mindanao.

She challenged the island's young leaders, referring to the 126 former interns at the House of Representatives who have graduated here for the first time since 2003, to work hard to make Mindanao a better place.

"I don't want to tell you and say that this will be easy," Kenney told the young leaders.

Students bring service to kids at 'Ako Mismo'

DAGUPAN CITY—HUNDREDS of students braved the rain to take part in the 'Wala Mismo Kilos' ... para sa mga bata ng Negros" at the Capitol Lagoon Park in Bacolod City on Friday.

Hanok Alapa Baglalo, former Negros Occidental board member, or "Hanok said the 'Wala Mismo Kilos' is an advocacy campaign to rally the youth to help make a change starting with themselves.

Baglalo, who is part of the social mobilization group of 'Wala Mismo Kilos,' said the activity gave an opportunity to movement institutions to provide services to children.

Some of those who joined the activity led some children, relieved institutions and institutions for children to maximize communication, conducted a storybook drive for schools, provided tutorial reading and game blood for sick children with dengue, Baglalo said.

Booths were set up where volunteers signed up for Grand Rakipan week, an honorary International letter-writing campaign, and women's rights promotion council.

Carla B Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

Smugglers tagged in plot to oust sugar exec

By Carla P Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—SUGAR PLANters and workers rallied behind Rafael Coscolluela, outlanded Sugar Regulatory Administrator faced, who threw a spoilt case that emerged after eight years and refuted his supporters said was part of a plot by sugar smugglers to oust him.

Enrique Jalan, president of the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters, said on Friday his group would oppose efforts to dislodge Coscolluela from his post as SRA administrator.

"We will continue to rally behind Coscolluela in the campaign to put a stop to sugar smuggling," Jalan said.

Rafael Gobo, a director of the Philippine Sugar Corp. and former member of the Sugar Board, said sugar smugglers might be after Coscolluela because he started to plug the loopholes in the movement of domestic and export sugar.

"Probably the smugglers are hurting. It is not as easy as it used to be to smuggle sugar now," Gobo said.

When Coscolluela took over the SRA, he organized the anti-sugar smuggling task force, he said.

"Like (Coscolluela) had the guts to take on this additional work of hunting the sugar smuggling task force, that really is the job of the Bureau of Customs," Gobo added.

He said Coscolluela should need full support of the sugar industry because he has done a good job.

"Mr. (Coscolluela) is a straightforward person and I can vouch for his integrity," Gobo said.

Coscolluela on Thursday said the publicity that stranded the case against him at the Sandiganbayan appeared to be an orchestrated campaign to embarrass him in public.

"I suspect that this is part of a campaign to remove me from SRA because of my antismuggling campaign," he said. "We've apparently hurt a few people."

Coscolluela posted bail for the graft case.

He was accused of buying overpriced medical and farm equipment worth P10 million from an unlicensed supplier when he was still Negros Occidental governor.

He said he had an opportunity to defend himself publicly since he did not want to risk the ire of the court by violating the sub judice rule.

His lawyer, Mario Agustinillo, took a preemptive move Thursday by filing a motion to quash the information against him.

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School Year 2010-2011

DATE	TIME
Saturday, 3 October 2009	
Session 1	8:00 – 11:30 AM
Session 2	1:30 – 5:00 PM
Sunday, 4 October 2009	
Session 3	8:00 – 11:30 AM

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Last Day for Submission of Application Forms: Friday, 18 September 2009

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LESSON FOR DPWH

Town builds classrooms at half the cost

STA. BARBARA, PANGASINAN—"The local government in this town of Pangasinan province provided sand and hauled to build classrooms at half the cost spent by the national government for the same projects.

Mayor Reynaldo Velasco, a retired police general, said for P650,000, the local government built in 2007 in classrooms that has a ceiling, tabular windows and a toilet. The expenses covered painting, too.

In contrast, the national government spent P980,000 for the same project but for unpainted classrooms with no ceilings and jalousie windows.

"How can this town do it? By having contractors willing to earn 'tubong Lupa.' We tell them: Are you willing to earn just P10,000 in P30,000 per classroom?" Velasco said.

Usually, the contractors agreed, he said. This was because there were given not only one classroom to build.

"If it is just one classroom, the profit is small. For six weeks, the regular construction period, they just earn only P30,000. But we usually ask them to build six to 10 classrooms. So if there are 10 classrooms, they earn P300,000 in six weeks. Not ideal profit because contractors usually have similar-sense projects," Velasco said.

He said no substandard materials were used in the school buildings. "I'm good at computations and Math and I studied construction engineering," he said.

Since Velasco became mayor in June 2007, 250 classrooms had been built or repaired in the town. But not all were locally funded, he said.

He said 20 classrooms were built by the Department of Public Works and Highways, 10 by the Department of Education, and seven by the provincial government.

Velasco also topped his schoolmates at the Philippine Military Academy in dormitory school buildings. Among them were Chief Supt. Mario Sandoval, police director for Southern Mindanao; and Chief Supt. Eumir Gasay, police director for Bicol region.

Velasco sponsored a golf tournament which earned P700,000. A donor gave P200,000 and another gave P150,000.

"With over P1 million, we were able to repair eight classrooms, each with a comfort room and which all looked new," he said.

Velasco said they spent P150,000 to P200,000 for the repair of the classrooms while they spend P600,000 for the construction of new ones. Yolanda Sotelo, *Inquirer Northern Luzon*

FIRST AID
Dr. Grace Jimenez, veterinarian of Municipal District, dresses the wounds of an endangered short-fin pilot whale that was beached in Bolong Beach, some 12 km from Zamboanga City.

Sisterhood ties lead to push for Binay candidacy

By Chito Fuentes
Inquirer Visayas

TAGBILARAN CITY—WHILE MMP current "Step Ruben Ibe" for Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay for Mayor Dan Lim of Tagbilaran, the acronym stands for "Mayor Binay President."

Binay, who is also president of the United Opposition, had previously declared he was available for the presidency but has lately skirted any direct reference to it.

However, the Makati service has brought to Bohol for Binay's visit had the slogan "Manda Na Para Sa Bansa."

Binay came to Bohol for a two-day visit for the signing of sisterhood agreements with mayors Alvin Ty of Batuyan, Manuel Mallorca of Carmen and Claudio Bautista of San Miguel on Friday and with Lim on Saturday.

Lim maintained that he was not in the politics in say that Binay was running for president, vice president or senator or that he was open for appointment to Cabinet secretary.

Nevertheless, he expressed his support for Binay. "I secondly say that while 8080 can mean 'Mas Dalos Pa,' I am Mayor Binay, President," Lim said.

Binay explained, though, that "Step Ruben Ibe" was his favorite slogan, which he used to deliver a message of hope in these difficult times.

He also recognized the Tagbilaran City mayor's unequivocal support, a commitment made by Lim during a gathering of local officials in Makati several years earlier.

He expressed satisfaction that many of Makati's pro-people programs were also implemented in Tagbilaran City.

Binay also turned over to Tagbilaran City a yellow multicab type ambulance, bearing the words "Handog Kapatid ng Makati—to Bilaay, Mayor."

During his speech at the signing ceremony in Tagbilaran City Binay could not resist making pronouns at the previous administrations, saying that he admired the courage of Tagbilaran local officials for standing out in the open for the economy.

"We will give copies of the videos taken here today to Malacañang to show them the warm reception that we got from you," Binay told his audience in Pilipino, eliciting laughter and mild applause.

Binay said many local government officials do not want to meet the ire of Malacañang because they are dependent on internal revenue allotments.

From schools, villages A(H1N1) virus spreads to jail

FROM SCHOOLS AND VILLAGES, the Influenza A(H1N1) virus has spread to a provincial jail in Bohol, sending 14 of its inmates to a holding area on Friday, authorities said.

They were promptly given medication and were temporarily separated from other inmates, Fearly Mendoza, the provincial administrator, said, adding the inmates were recovering fast.

Jail officials are conducting thermal scanning of visitors before they are allowed entry into the jail compound. The inmates were also advised to strictly observe personal hygiene.

"The change in weather and lack of space could have contributed to the spread of flu symptoms among the inmates," Mendoza said.

Congested jail

Now with more than 2,000 inmates, the provincial jail was reconstructed to accommodate less than 1,000.

Gov. Edilito Mendoza assured the inmates that the provincial government would take care of their health, including making available medicines to prevent any outbreak. He said the Bohol Medical Center (formerly Bohol Provincial Hospital) has isolation rooms for A(H1N1) patients.

In Bukidnon, a regional science high school in Valencia town suspended classes for 10 days after five students were tested positive for the A(H1N1) virus.

Dr. Benito Tomarong, Cagayan Valley education director, said classes were suspended starting July 16 for second and fourth year students only.

In Surigao City, Mayor Alfred Bascugan on Thursday said there was no need to declare the city under a state of calamity even as it was on a "full campaign" to combat the spread of the flu virus.

Not proportionate

He said in a press conference that the city has a population of 200,000 and the number of positive flu cases reported in Surigao as of Thursday afternoon was just 62.

He also called on city residents not to panic.

"Expect the number to grow because Surigao City is a transit city with a population that practically doubles during the day and the population during the weekend is different from the weekdays," the mayor said.

He said while many new cases emerge daily, many cases have recovered.

Dr. Jaime Opinion, Tagbilaran City health officer, said 15 schools in his city have already suspended classes because of the flu.

Seven other schools, he said, are in suspend classes because of "clustering" of cases.

"When we say clustering, one class has 40 to 50 persons of the students already having influenza-like illness [such as] 37.8°C fever, sore throat, appetite loss, muscle pains, sweating or loose bowel movement," Opinion said.

Mayor Bernardito also said in the press conference that his daughter, who was positive with A(H1N1), is now recovering.

"She's recovered quite fully," the mayor said.

In the City of Calapan in Oriental Mindoro, five students in a public school were found positive for A(H1N1), according to Mayor Ruslan Salvador Lendoza.

Lendoza said he requested the city schools superintendent to suspend classes last Wednesday for at least 10 days.

Focus on cure

The province's health officials said instead of concentrating health workers on now focused on helping patients recover quickly and preventing the spread of the virus.

In Laoang City, four high school students in two private schools, a prisoner and an old man were found positive of A(H1N1), according to Dr. Wilfredo Pantaleon, head of the Laoang City Health Office.

The latest figure brought to 22 the number of confirmed cases of A(H1N1) in the city.

"The good news is that the five latest victims (four students and old man) are now feeling well and on the road to full recovery," said Pantaleon.

Pantaleon said his office has also recommended the suspension of classes in schools with confirmed A(H1N1) cases.

"But it's up to them [school officials] to heed our advice or not," he said. Gerweda Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon and Jill Tabada, Inquirer Visayas; Rhodeena T. Villeta and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

A MEMBER of the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals, clad in a skeleton suit, holds up a poster parody blame on cornbeef meat owing for A(H1N1) infection, his way of calling attention to his group's crusade against the slaughter of animals for food.

NEWSBRIEFS

■ BAYUGO CITY

ICT summit

INFORMATION and Communications Technology (ICT) players here are stepping up efforts to position Davao City as the country's top Business Processing Outsourcing (BPO) hub.

Lucbel Holgado, ICT Davao president, said these includes a two-day summit next month aimed at creating a blueprint for making Davao City the top BPO hub in the country.

"Although it is quite an ambitious goal, it is attainable," she said. *Jody Quirez, Inquirer Mindanao*

■ STA. MARIA, Bulacan

Reward to get killers

THE STA. Maria government offered a P100,000 reward to anyone who can identify the suspect or masterminds in the killing of a local government employee here last week.

Cynthia Cale, 43, secretary at the office of the League of the Associations of Barangay Captains, was on her way home in Barangay Pulong Buhangin here on July 7 when an armed man accosted and shot her.

When she fell, the man shot her again. Police ruled out robbery as her money and personal belongings were intact. Cale served for 13 years as secretary of Pulong Buhangin before she was reassigned to the ABC office. *Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon*

■ CAYAN MAGANNES

1st crab festival

THE SURIGAE in the production of crabs in Pangantihan town here has prompted local leaders to hold the first ever crab festival in this province, personally buttoned by strong typhoons.

The Festival, on July 23, is being sponsored by the 45-member Pangantihan Fishes Ball Association Inc. founded by lawyer Renato Bautista and headed by Ruel Bautista, said town Mayor Grigor Ibañez.

The festival activities includes costume parade and various crab contests at the Pangantihan Central Elementary School.

The festival is part of the feast on July 24-25 of St. James the Greater, the town's patron saint. *Santiago E. Alvarez*

■ CAMP PICENTE LPA, Laguna

Girl tries suicide

A 17-YEAR-OLD college student tried to commit suicide by shooting herself inside her home in Brgy. Gambo, police said on Thursday.

The records found the girl at home with a gunshot wound to the chest.

"Her parents thought she (Gambo) was stabbed, but our investigation turned out that she shot herself," said PO2 Roland Ramos in a phone interview.

He said the girl used her father's .45-cal. pistol.

Police found a suicide note that read in Filipino: "Mama, papa, I keep making my problems and embarrassment to you. I did this to end everything. I am the black sheep. I ask for your forgiveness." *Alonzo Sierra, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

■ EVENTS

THIS painting, titled "Hands" by Emmanuel Garibay, is one of 41 artworks donated by 33 artists to the UPLB.

33 artists donate

AT LEAST 33 artists donated paintings and other artworks they created during the Philippines at Los Baños in celebration of UPLB's 100th year.

The art works, estimated to be worth P4.7 million, are exhibited at the Tinang Kabataan Gallery, Small Hall of the UPLB campus.

The exhibit goes on until July 31 and features the artworks of

Abdon Alcantara, Ben Arcilla, Lea Fernando, Melchor Antonio, Gary Alcaraz, Pablo Baens Santos, Julie Lluch, Arnold Dans, Rose Nabor and Juan Sajid Imao.

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Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Lhuillier

No one's supposed to change anything in this house

But not everything had stayed the same, says present resident

BAHAY na Tisa Hao the look and feel of a museum but warmth of a home.

By DJ Yap

THE OLDEST HOUSE IN PASIG STANDS MAJESTIC at the west end of 2 Gomez Street, undisturbed by the flow of time and the passage of generations.

With its antiquated floors, walls and ceiling, the Bahay na Tisa Damsar of tiered has the look and feel of a museum; but the wooden sofa is home, where memories of hearth and family mingle daily with the ghosts of history.

For the past 100 years, this house has been a quiet witness to the life and story of one family—the Tisoks—who have seen wars in peacetime in the state it was built in the 1880s when even Jose Rizal was said to have walked on its furnished wooden floors.

Agapita Galindo "Pitang" Rivera Tech, widow of the late historian and writer Dean Carlos Tech, who was the eldest of the family's fifth generation, has lived in the stone house for the past 50 years.

"My whole life is here in this house. I feel I am already a part of it," she said, speaking to Philippine in an interview one humid Friday afternoon.

The 75-year-old Pitang lives in the house with her daughter, Maria Aeronica Tech Mendoza, and grandsons Juan Carlos Diego and Jose Ignacio Mario III around them in a neighborhood of locks from various generations who reside in the quiet community facing the plaza and the cathedral.

Images of the past

Little has been changed in the 500-square meter house since the decades since it was built by Don Cecilio Tech in the early 1890s in a corner of what is now Barangay San Jose.

As one walks into the huge wooden door and negotiates the elegant staircase, one is immediately assailed by images of a time long past.

Here, members of the Katipunan held clandestine meetings at the height of the Philippine revolution against Spain. Here, freedom fighters sought refuge from Japanese soldiers hunting them down during the war.

Rizal a visitor once

A massive conference table with a light fixture hovering above it sits in one corner of the vast living room, unchanged and conserved for more than a century. This was where Rizal once sat, Pitang said, pointing to a spot on the long wooden chair.

"No one is supposed to change anything," Pitang added.

She recalled one time long ago when she had tried to move the table while scrubbing the floor—carrying her a stern word from her husband. "Everything has to stay the way it has always been," she said.

But not everything had stayed the same. For instance, there was the matter of plumbing.

In the 1960s, Pitang said she managed to convince her husband to finally install a septic tank in the backyard and to have a modern sink toilet.

"Before that, there was just a well connected to old style toilets where there were three municipal next to each other. Back then, the father, the mother and the child did it right next to each other," she said with a laugh.

"I asked Carlos to change it because my daughter would be embarrassed if she brought friends over and they had to use the bathroom," she added.

Pitang even remembered the

THE STAIRS lead to spacious interiors where memories of hearth and family mingle daily with the ghosts of history.

Council denies railroading pay parking scheme

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER of the Quezon City council yesterday denied speculations the city council is fast-tracking the approval of a proposed pay parking scheme in the city.

Councilor Aurorita Inton Jr. said they are open to any opposition or objection to the proposed ordinance as he invited all sectors concerned to attend a public hearing on the issue on July 24.

"I would like to make it clear that the city council is not railroading this measure as some speculate. We would not do that and we are open to the objections of the public," he said in an interview.

He said the proposed ordinance authored by Councilor Jonas Emiliey has been referred to the committee on ways and means for further study.

"Now on July 24, it will be handled by my committee on laws, it's now in my court, and we will study all opinions pertaining to the measure," Inton said.

A multisectoral alliance, the Kaalipunan Laban sa Pay Parking Inilunsad sa Quezon City, has called for the "unilateral, unconditional and immediate withdrawal" of the proposal.

Lead convenor Edwin Pedigloni earlier claimed that the measure was ill advised and ill timed, adding its scope of "places of special interest" was vague.

The measure seeks to impose a P50 to P150 parking fee for the first three hours along streets in malls on "places of special interest," such as parks, churches, shopping malls and other places of congregation.

Inton said they would hold as many public hearings as necessary to get all opinions on barangay's proposed ordinance.

SHELTER A dog runs along Roxas Boulevard in Manila provides shelter for this man from strong winds and heavy rains Saturday. JAY morata

Fake Gucci watches worth P118M seized

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF Investigation confiscated over P118 million worth of fake Gucci watches during raids in several establishments in Quiapo, Manila, recently.

At least seven malls at the Pinoy Mercado Shopping Mall on Carlido Street, Quiapo, were raided. The malls were reportedly owned by Chinese nationals Charlena Lee, Jenna Lee and Lina Co.

According to Christopher Hernandez, special investigator at the NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division, they were able to seize 15,867 pieces of counterfeit Gucci watches and 216 pieces of Gucci bags.

The fake watches were sold at P350 to 800 each, he said, adding that an original Gucci watch has a market value of at least P30,000 each.

NBI-IPRD chief Ellen Meneses said the raids stemmed from the complaint filed by Gucci.

Armed with a search warrants issued by Manila regional trial court Executive Judge Antonio Eugenio Jr., the NBI agents conducted the raids following surveillance and scrutiny.

Charges for violation of Section 168 (unfair competition) of Republic Act 8293, otherwise known as the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines, would be filed against owners of the establishments, the NBI said.

MetroBriefs

Boy, 8, drowns in Marikina River

AN 8-YEAR-OLD boy drowned at the Marikina River yesterday after his pal and another boy tried to cross the river on board a coconut trunk.

The Marikina City Rescue Team identified the victim as Bryan Anonuevo, a resident of Malnar St. in Barangay Cela Pefia in Marikina City. The team said Anonuevo and his friend, Reynaldo Balayon Jr., also 8 years old, rode a small boat to cross the river but it capsized around 8 a.m. Anonuevo drowned, while Balayot managed to swim to the riverbank and sail for help. Jhonely T. Kahiniat

'Jueteng' winner found dead inside his tricycle

A TRICYCLE driver was found dead inside his tricycle early Saturday morning in Quezon City, hours after he won in "jueteng," the latest suspected gang-related killing in the city, police said.

Police identified the victim as Raul Abayan, 34, of Emmi Garcia St., Barangay E. Rodriguez, Cubao. A fellow tricycle driver, Manny Pantual, told police he was found blood dripping from Abayan's tricycle while it was parked on the street. Police Inspector Oscar Calubaquib found Abayan lying on his back, dead and bloodied. Julie M. Aurelio

THE MERGER THAT IS LAKAS KAMPI CMD

"Cynics and detractors love to paint grim scenarios about the cancellation of the 2010 elections," said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, but the recent merger of the Lakas-CMD and Kampi political parties sends a clear message about her "administration's resolve and determination to push through with the upcoming national and local elections."

In a speech made during the merger at the Manila Hotel, she said that the party will be a weapon and guarantee for the success of the democratic process during 2010, emphasizing its goal of victory in the context of clean and credible elections.

To the hundreds of city mayors, congressmen, and governors belonging to the unified political party, the President stressed that all must strive for victory not just for the party itself, but also for the entire nation. This includes the implementation of sweeping electoral reforms, "[E]lectoral reforms, especially automation, are priority items in our administration's 10-point agenda."

The President shook hands with the attendees to the merger celebration, and exchanged brief notes with fellow party members.

PDMA also thanked the members of the uniting parties for their "willingness to rise above boundaries to do what is right not only for the administration's political cause but also for the nation."

"I need you all with me" was her rallying cry, underlining the message that the final purposes of the Lakas Kampi CMD union were political harmony and, more importantly, the provision of quality service to the Filipino people. She acknowledged that she needed the consolidated party's utmost help and efforts in the building of a national economy that would be able to withstand the continuing global economic crisis, and that these noble goals could only be reached by "being as one, acting as one, winning as one."

"Naway we will be unanimous in our thinking and opinions but I would hope that all of us will be disciplined enough to support the party stand."

From now on, PDMA believes that it will be easier and more productive to have long-term projects, services and investments in the areas where local government officials will no longer be at odds with higher-ranking officials, as this means that the chains of command and responsibility will run more smoothly. There will also be a mechanism for reconciliation or, if necessary, the adjudication of disputes at the local levels.

LAKAS-KAMPI CMD ECONOMIC MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Although there was much protest coming in the wake of the implementation of Value-Added Tax (VAT), it has become a trophy of the Arroyo administration's continuing economic platform:

Where the VAT goes

- Infrastructure that links back the poorest provinces of the Philippines, such as those in the Visayas, to the economy of the country.
- Strong investor confidence, pushing the exchange rate back down to the mid-P40/$1 levels from highs of P56/$1 and up. This has greatly helped to keep inflation rates down.
- Buffer programs to cushion the impact of the global economic crunch such as food and fuel subsidies.
- The purging and elimination of kidnap and coup-n elements which have been wreaking off the honest, hardworking Filipino down. This has had the additional fiduciary effect of keeping fares more manageable.
- Loans for scholarships for students of all ages, energy-saving initiatives such as the switch from incandescent bulbs to fluorescent ones, and environmentally-friendly fuel efforts such as funds to change jeepneys over from diesel-based engines to LPG, CNG or biofuel ones.
- Pensions for senior citizens who are not being covered by SSS or the GSIS.
- Relief and calamity budgets during times of natural disasters, especially during typhoon season.
- Loans for farmers and fisherfolk and their families, increasing the levels of self-sufficiency in food, as well as improved irrigation and resource management.

Welfare initiatives may not be considered as a means of economic stimulus, but the administration has proven that a well-managed national social welfare program can pay off. Already, beneficiaries of such programs as livelihood projects and microfinancing are paying back the investment by helping to boost the economy.

With the strengthening of the country's roads and transportation systems come greater benefits to the national economy. The continuing implementation of the R0RO (Roll On Roll Off) transport systems has resulted in falls in transport costs, toll fees, and cargo charges, meaning more reasonable prices and increased profits for all payers.

Investments in education will mean that the country reaps the rewards of an increased globally-competitive workforce, providing more stimulus to the economy. The graduates of government-sponsored technical and vocational courses now number in the millions, and they are now able to support themselves and their families as well as contribute to the nation as a whole.

The business groups and civil society are encouraged to keep doing their share as the country strives towards a socially equitable, economically viable balance of interests that can only benefit all Filipinos.

No one's supposed to change . . .

From page A11

exact dates she convinced her husband to buy a refrigerator (Nov. 16, 1966) and an oven (June 1, 1969).

Before, she said they had used an earthen jar to store their drinking water.

"It was never supposed to be scrubbed clean because the moss makes the water feel when we drink it. That was growing up. I said we couldn't keep doing that because children might find it strange and not drink the water," she said.

Out of sight from their visitors is a wooden altar where Pilang's grandchildren watch TV or play DVDs. In a small room that used to serve as the maid's quarters are stacks of books and magazines from Carlos's collection, including publications of Reader's Digest Mr. Magazine and El Militarismo.

Promise on old collection

Pilang said her husband had made her promise never to sell or throw away his collection, and it was a vow she and her daughters honored to keep. "I never told him that I wish I'd die earlier than him so he wouldn't think I did anything to his book collection," she said.

Religious icons and statues are found everywhere in the house, from an antique Santo Niño figurine in the master bedroom to a life-size figure of a captive Christ in the living room next to a piano.

THE JURY being sworn of Pasig City's earliest house arrest Carmen Tarnee in Rapsican provides images of nine-year-Bebee, watches just that used to store pensive manner once serve as decorative pieces.

All day the cupid statuettes are kept upon as the wind is free to enter and re-leave, flutter until. Even at the height of the heavy tifoon Typhoon "Milenyo," the windows had remained open. "I had to use three broomsticks when it was over," she said.

The walls, doors and beams are made mostly of wicker and rattan, sturdy types of wood that would not rust easily over time unlike metal, Pilang said. "With God's grace, these have never been a far from."

Pilang, whose family hails from Sagunto, Bulacan, said that the first time she entered the house upon marrying her husband, she had felt scared and could not sleep. "Our house [in the province] could fit in here," she said.

No ghosts

She added that despite the age and history of the house, she had never once felt the presence of ghosts.

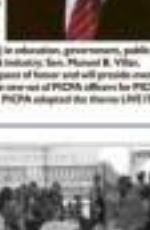
But she said she never once slept in the antique bed, which she hasn't had moved as the shoulders of an heavy color of their ancestors. "Back in the old days, people spent their dying days at home, not in the hospital," she said.

The Balay na Tisa has been used as the location of several shows and movies depicting the Spanish period, scenes from Marilou Diaz-Abaya's 1998 film, "Jose Rizal" had been shot here, as well as some scenes TV shows, Pilang said.

Tourists and students also come by often to take a look and marvel at how the house has been preserved.

Pilang said antique collectors would even sometimes offer random amounts for the kitchen door, or a piece of the flooring, or some of the antique jars around the house. There was even an offer from Ely Buendia to acquire the house for P20 million. But she said the Dark Clan would not have sold it.

Pilang said the Balay na Tisa would remain the home of the Tarlis for as long as it remained standing—as stated in an old family statement they had kept safe through the years. "This house is not a museum. It will always be a home for people to live in," she said.



Newly elected Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) president Dr. Antonio Tarzan leads the Accountancy Week Celebration that opens today with a Holy Mass and a day-long special affair in Intramuros and Ermita. The Opening Ceremonies at the Manila Hotel will be keynoted by BIR Commissioner Sixto S. Esquilan. The entire week will be filled with professional development activities for Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) in education, government, public practice and commerce & industry. Sen. Manuel B. Villar, himself a CPA, will be the guest of honor and will preside over the induction of Tarzan and the new set of PICPA officers for PICPA Year 2009-2010. This year, PICPA adopted the theme LIVE IT UP! The PICPA Spirit.

Iglesia ni Cristo churches and its Makati Sta Village community

"THE DIMAKITA PROJECT ISSUED distribution of drugs within our borders more readily. I wonder by whom and drug syndicates to tap Filipinos to export or smuggle drugs overseas."

Imman Ejito June 2009

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

After their initial culture shock, Pinoy teachers shine in America

By Sylvia Enrique-Pisco

MANY FILIPINO teachers have gone abroad for better-paying jobs. Are they happier where they are now? How are they coping with a new environment and the world financial crisis? Will they ever come back to the Philippines?

I got real answers to these questions when I and my daughter Rhaisi recently visited Washington, D.C., for the Cherry Blossoms Festival. We were invited by good teacher-friends Ben and Edna Salinas and spent the night at the home of another teaching couple in Georgetown County, Maryland, Chuck and Emily Chavez.

Chuck and Emily, both former teachers in Naga City, refer to their home as "Bahay ni Enzo"—a name they got from watching a show of the same title on the Filipino Channel which is beamed to major cities in the United States. They even their extra rooms to other overseas Filipino teachers and this helps cheer Manny up (administrators on the house).

"There are quite a number of Filipino teachers here now," says Emily who joined the first batch of 30 Filipino teachers who arrived in Georgetown County in September 2004.

Filipino teachers arrive in the US in groups, she said. "Maryland is a good place for immigrants because it does not have a quota. Immigration is open," she added. Some stories limit the entry of immigrants to a certain number every year.

The growing number of Filipinos in Maryland has led to perceptions existing to their morals. Business-minded Pinoys have been bringing in Filipino food, ornaments, accessories and other "old country" stuff to sell on them. Recently, concert producers brought to Pinoy diva Regine Velasquez and Teen Dim Sheilla. It was a big hit among the Filipino workers.

> Emily was often close to tears when some American kids would shout 'Hi, shorty!'

CHAK and Emily Chavez in Maryland

CHAK and Bar Salinas

> Ben had to unlearn his Pilipino-English but got by with a little help from friends—and angels

Emily's story

Emily recalled the first time she reported to Garyon High School: "It was a difficult and awkward time. We came in the second quarter. We were literally greeted at. We looked different from the black and even Asian students. They were used to," she said. Pretty and fair but petite, her students even called her names, like "Shorty" or "Tiny."

"Tears would well in my eyes but I tried hard to hold them back. I did not want to show them any sign of weakness on my part," she said. There were a lot of tense, sleepless nights and this was a big change from where she was used to in the liberal region, where students looked at teachers with awe and respect. Emily admitted she was shocked when some students taunted her with the words, "Hi Shorty!"

Finally, who headed the English Department in her school back in Naga City, was selected to be part of the curriculum writing team in her second year of teaching in Elysian High School. It was a recognition of her capabilities as an English teacher and it was all the more significant because she came from a country where English was just a second language.

Emily's perseverance stems from her family. After all, they never let tension alter threshold to work overseas. When the opportunity to go to America came, she grabbed it. She wanted her daughter to live in a better environment and benefit from a Western education. Her husband Chuck followed after six months. Daughter Peachy recently arrived with her mother and grandmother in tow.

In just four years, Emily and Chuck have been able to buy themselves a house and a van. They are happy with what they have and are looking forward to a long stay in America. But Naga still always be in their hearts, they added. It will be a vacation place for them.

To cope with the financial crisis, they do not buy things on impulse. They plan their purchases well, said Emily. Like other teachers, she attends a lot of seminars where she not only learns new things but also gets paid extra for the hours spent attending these seminars.

Ben's story

Keeping with the Classroom in their homes is Ben Salinas, a Math teacher also at Gyneva High School. Ben is still amazed at how he got the job in Maryland, like was doing odd jobs in Jersey City. He needed a regular job to make his stay in the US legal. So he took the US test for teachers. Passing that, he went to a job fair in Maryland and passed the interview. All he needed was a school to take him in.

Ben cannot forget the stress (panic, actually)—and timely reminders—of the day he met the deadline for the filing of documents for a coaching job in Maryland.

He had boarded a Greyhound bus from Jersey City to Georgia County. It was winter and the chill seem was shooting through the bus. He was praying and calling on all the saints to help get him to the school before the 3 p.m. cutoff.

But everything seemed to be going against him. He got down at the wrong bus stop and got lost. After asking for directions, he hopped on another bus. He was starting to panic. Just then his cell phone rang. It was a Filipino he had met at the job fair calling to find out where he was and reminding him that his appointment was just minutes away. The Filipino volunteered to meet him somewhere and drive him to where he was supposed to go. He made it just in the nick of time. While he was talking to the officer of the day, a school head came in saying a Math teacher was unconditionally needed at Gyneva High School. He was at the right place at the right time!

Ben felt that God was there beside him that day and that He had earlier sent all His angels to help him extraordinarily more the 8 p.m. deadline. Because of that experience, Ben has become a man of strong faith.

Ben appreciates everything about what he believes in his "God-given" career. He had been warned about the tough kids but he takes it all in stride.

"If they call me names, I laugh with them. I do not think they really mean to insult me. I believe it is just the way they are."

He also laughs at the fact he had to adjust the way he speaks English to be understood by his American students. The other Filipino teachers had to do the same thing, especially those who had regional accents. Filipino English won't do here, he said, laughing.

In a year's time, Ben has gained a lot of self confidence. "I did not come from an overachieving school or a state university, but I made it here in America as a teacher," he said. Back home, Ben taught in a public school in Antipolo and could hardly make both ends meet. In America, he has already bought himself a car. He hopes to buy a house next year. "When I have saved enough money. I will want to go back home and retire there," he added.

On suing the United States gov't for wrongful deportation

A FILIPINO COUPLE, WHO BELIEVE they were wrongly deported, are suing the US government for half a million dollars.

The case, reported on a network news website, has caught the attention of many immigrants. Can immigrants win against big government?

According to the news report, these are some of the facts of the case: The husband arrived in the US in 1981, with the wife following 10 years later. The report did not mention the immigration status of the couple at the time of their deportation. In July 1988, the couple claimed they did not receive a letter to appear at a deportation hearing against them, resulting in their failure to appear. Because of their nonappearance, an immigration judge apparently signed an order for their deportation.

At the time they were taken into custody and deported in 2005, the couple protested, saying they had a pending motion before the deportation could complete their failure to appear and requesting they be afforded an opportunity to be heard. However, the US Department of Homeland Security through the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office, went ahead and deported them back to the Philippines.

IMFO
Lourdes Santos Isreceno

The couple were then stripped. A return to the US was arranged by their lawyers. They returned to the US two years ago. They then filed a claim against the US government for wrongfully deporting them. They are seeking half a million dollars in damages.

Reasons for deportation

These who enter the US must have a valid visa to stay and work. Once a nonimmigrant overstays the limits and conditions of the visa, he or she loses the right to stay in the country. It is the obligation of the Department of Homeland Security, through the ICE, to send notices to appear and take into custody noncitizens who have fallen out of status.

With the big number of undocumented aliens, the ICE prioritizes those who are up for deportation. Sometimes with criminal cases and final orders of Deportation are among the first to be deported in their backlog. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the ICE launched Operation Return to Sender which speeds up the deportation of aliens with final deportation orders.

The Filipino couple were apparently subjects of a final Order of Deportation. Their motion to reopen the case was reportedly approved after they had already been deported.

Motions to reopen

As a general rule, the ICE may enforce the Final Order of Deportation unless there is a court order staying the deportation of individuals. The ICE has the authority to take into custody all individuals subject to deportation. This is what they refer to as "mandatory detention."

The deported husband argued that since there was a pending motion to reopen the case, he and his wife should not have been deported.

Generally, the ICE is not prevented from removing an individual if the order of deportation is final, unless there is a properly filed motion or appeal. Also, there is an automatic stay of deportation only if the motion is filed as a result of an "in absentia" order of deportation. This means that failure to appear was due to the lack of proper notice. The ICE and the immigration court must be duly informed of this automatic stay.

> Federal officials are allowed some discretion in their jobs but they are not above the law

Noncitizen's constitutional rights

Both citizens and noncitizens in the US are generally protected against arbitrary federal and state actions. The constitutional safeguards of due process and equal protection of the law apply. The Federal Constitution's Fifth Amendment explicitly states that no "person" shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law. The Fourteenth Amendment commands that no "person" shall be denied equal protection of the laws. However, in some cases, such as in employment and property rights, noncitizens may not enjoy the same rights as citizens.

It is not unusual for an individual who feels aggrieved by federal actions to sue the US government for damages. The basis for these lawsuits may be the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) or the Bivens Claims against individual officials for violating the immigrant's constitutional rights. Under the FTCA, the aggrieved immigrant may claim damages for false arrest, battery and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

As a defense, the US government can argue that it is not liable if the employee's conduct involved an element of judgment or choice and its exercise was grounded in social, economic or political policy.

The claim can prevail

A complete analysis of the case is not possible here because there are many details missing from the news item on the couple's case. The report states that the wife, a registered nurse, is "under petition" by a US employer. Hopefully, she now has a valid immigration visa that authorizes her to stay and work in the US.

To prevail in their suit for damages, the Pinoy couple must prove not merely the damage done but also the fact that the ICE agents were beyond their call of duty in removing them from the US.

Under the law, the US government is not liable for acts its employees were performing their official functions—even if there was an abuse of discretion.

On the other hand, the Pinoy couple do not deserve unfair treatment and the harsh effects of deportation. What happened to them is a real concern today. There have been many complaints against what many deemed a restrictive and unreasonable immigration policy during the Bush administration, particularly after the revised attacks of 2001.

Nevertheless, the ICE agents are expected to exercise reasonable judgment in the performance of their functions. This case could be another reminder that federal officials are not above the law.

Inquiries may be mailed at lisa@inquirer.com.ph *or* 8977377.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Quonio

US TV news legend Walter Cronkite dies at age 92

CRONKITE AFP

WASHINGTON—US TV NEWS legend Walter Cronkite, dubbed "the most trusted man in America" for his calm and honest delivery during a tumultuous period in US history, has died in New York at the age of 92.

Cronkite presented the CBS Evening News from 1962 to 1981. During that time he delivered the news on civil rights unrest, the assassinations of president John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, the moon landing, the Cold War, and the Watergate scandal that toppled president Richard Nixon.

Cronkite's period as a news anchor coincided with a time that television outgrew supreme as the dominant media in the United States, and three formidable networks—CBS, NBC and ABC—ruled the airwaves.

"It is impossible to imagine CBS News, journalism or indeed America without Walter Cronkite," CBS News and Sports President Sean McManus said.

"Many firsts join the best and most fearful anchor in history, he guided America through war, crisis, tragedies and also our victories and greatest moments," McManus said.

President Barack Obama said the United States "has lost an icon."

"For decades, Walter Cronkite was the most trusted voice in America," said Obama in a White House statement. "His rich baritone reached millions of living rooms every night, and in an industry of icons, Walter set the standard by which all others have been judged."

Dan Hewitt, who for years was Cronkite's producer, said the late newsman set the "gold standard" for broadcast news.

Hewitt was the producer when Cronkite anchored broadcasts of the live landing on the moon in 1969. AFP

Most wanted terrorist top suspect in Jakarta blasts

JAKARTA, INDONESIA—INVESTIGATORS worked on Saturday to identify a pair of suicide bombers who attacked two American luxury hotels in Indonesia's capital, and health officials confirmed at least four of the dead were foreigners.

Suspicion hardened that the blasts were masterminded by Noordin Top, a Malaysian fugitive who heads a breakaway faction of the Southeast Asian militant network Jemaah Islamiyah.

"I'm 200 percent sure this was his work," said Inspector Ansyaad Mbai, a former Jemaah Islamiyah leader turned police informant who has worked with police on investigations into Indonesia's last three terrorist attacks.

Suicide bombers posing as guests attacked the JW Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotels in Jakarta on Friday, setting off a pair of blasts that killed eight people and wounded more than 50, authorities said.

A police investigator also said on Saturday that Noordin sent the most likely suspect.

"Considering the target, the location and content of the bombs, it was clearly the work of Noordin," the investigator said, declining to give his name because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media.

He said police had confiscated laptop computers from room 1808 of the Marriott, where the bombers had apparently prepared for the blasts.

The investigator said a hotel receptionist told police that the man who checked into the room gave his name as "Nordin." He gave a $1,000 cash deposit because he had no credit card, he said.

Authorities have not officially named a suspect, but suspicion quickly fell on Jemaah Islamiyah or its allies. The al-Qaeda-linked network is blamed for past attacks in Indonesia, including a 2002 bombing at the Marriott in which 12 people died.

The bands of four of the bombers recovered from the blast scenes...but at each he's not—had been blown off, the police investigator said.

It has been nearly four years since Top last made his mark in the world's most populous Muslim nation—a triple suicide bombing at restaurants on the resort island of Bali that killed 20 people.

Friday's strikes mixed guns, chaos about security gaps at high-level hotels, which have become popular targets for militants in recent years, most notably in Mumbai, India, where attacks in November killed 164 people.

Security was boosted at sites frequented by Westerners across the Indonesian capital of 13 million, where hotels already have multiple checkpoints. But the bombers were able to get through with explosives-filled backpacks.

Jakarta Governor Fauzi Bowo said the hotels were not to blame.

"The hotels are victims, they're not responsible for the bombings," he said. "The bombers are very professional, they're very smart, they're very well-trained."

Police have identified the two bombers as Malaysians Dani Dumorah Puspito and Nurfauzi, but have not said which of the two carried out the attack on which hotel.

Police have also identified a Malaysian man, Bahrun Naim, as a suspected financier of the attacks. Naim is believed to be in Syria, and is a member of Jemaah Islamiyah, police said

Sunday SPORTS
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Tiger misses cut; 'Old man' Watson shares lead /A27

FALCONS SOAR

Tamaraws vent ire on Archers

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE KIND OF DOMINANCE EXPECTED FROM UAE EASTERN was in full show yesterday as the Tamaraws whipped the Ice La Salle Archers, 65-51, in the UAAP men's basketball competition at the Araneta Coliseum.

A fiery start by rookies Noah Barrera, JR Casuday and Bell Cervantes pushed the preseason favorites Tamaraws to double-digit leads early before they coasted to their first win in two matches.

"The adjustment was more on mental; hanahi sapol ang ulo (they got too cocky) ng iba," said coach Glenn Capacio after the Tamaraws rebounded from a 63-69 setback against defending champion Ateneo.

"We emphasized on ball movement. The team (that lost against Ateneo) wasn't us."

Barrera, a member of the national developmental team, drew a game-high 15 points, while rookie guard RR Garcia added 12 markers.

Cervantes poured a double-double of 11 points and 13 boards for the Tamaraws, who led by as many as 20 points, 61-41, in the second half.

The Archers—fielding a rookie-laden lineup after finishing second last season—dropped to 0-2 for their worst start in 23 years.

Besides, Adamson took advantage of the University of the Philippines' sloppy plays in the closing seconds to post its first win, 72-66.

The Tikoons turned their straight Monsour turnovers into a crucial 5-0 spurt in the last 16 seconds to pull ahead after leading at 69-68.

"The reason for that is our defense," said Adamson coach Leo Isaac. "I thought we were going in here, but because of the constant reminder to be positive, they did not give up."

Jun Gelzon registered a double-double of 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Tikoons, who joined the Tamaraws and idle University of the East and National University at 1-1.

Leo Cercado scored an undergoal mark with 16.4 seconds remaining to lift the Tikoons up, 69-68, following a Lowen Alvarez's steal off UP's Arvic Bryanera.

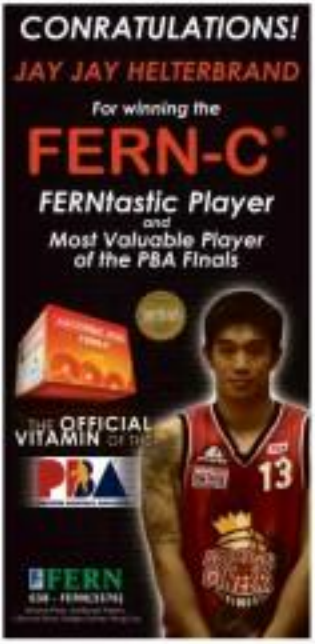
Another Bryanera turnover paved the way for a free throw by Adamson guard Jerich Galanta that cushioned the Tikoons' lead, 71-68, with 5.8 seconds left.

The Tikoons, who dropped to 0-2, still had a chance in tie or win the game, but another miscue allowed Adamson rookie Ervic Cenzon to score a buzzer-beating jumper for the final tally.

The Tamaraws held a 36-24 advantage at halftime built on a sizzling 51.7 percent shooting clip from a 26-16 lead in the first 10 minutes of play.

TAMARAWS /A26

BAZER Hulatan (No. 8) of La Salle and Hippolyte Hounkine of Far Eastern U battle for possession during a rebound play. /A26 AND A27



Lanete provides biggest roar for streaking Lions

By Cedrik F. Tigas

A CONSISTENT GABBO LANETE PROVIDED the firepower as defending champion San Beda continued its impressive streak and stayed in step with the leaders in the 85th NCAA men's basketball tournament.

In a game loaded with talented players, Lanete threw the toughest dart past two gamers by averaging 14 points, four rebounds, three assists and close to two steals.

San Beda coach Frankie Lim acknowledged Lanete's performance as crucial in their last three wins which they won by an average margin of 27 points.

"Gabbo is very consistent," Lim said of the 6-foot-3 guard from Basilan, who was chosen by the NCAA Press Corps Accel-PEPSI Player of the Week. "He always makes good decisions on the court, he makes the big shots and passes the ball well."

Another San Beda guard, JR Nieves, Jose Flor's John Pilones, who won last week's plum and Lorenz Roy Guevarra were also considered for the award.

Lanete, the youngest of the basketball-playing Lanete siblings headed by Barangay Ginebra's Chico, fueled a second half run that allowed the Lions to roll to an 86-66 win over the St. Benilde Blazers Monday.

Despite playing limited minutes against the Perpetual Help Altas, Lanete's first half explosion proved enough to power the Lions to a 39-30 cust.

The win was the Lions' fourth in five outings, moving San Beda just a game behind leaders San Sebastian and Jose Rizal U.

HEATED BATTLE ON ICE Players from the Label 1 squad and the Tokyo Canadians wrestle for the puck during the First Philippine International ice hockey tournament 2009 at the Shrimpo of Asia rink. Five hockey squads are competing in this first-of-its-kind international tournament in the country.

World junior golf: No final-round rally for Ardina, Puyat

By Joey Arcano

SAN DIEGO—AFTER LOOKING SO invincible the past four weeks, Deidre Ardina came crashing back to earth.

With a far-from-impressive showing either of a one-over-par 73, Ardina settled for sixth place in her debut in the 13, 15 divisions of the Callaway Junior World golf championships on Friday (Saturday in Manila).

While the eventual Korean winner Jung Ha-na stepped up to erase the one-stroke challenged victory, Ardina never got as much chance to do so after eleven round.

She finished at 209 in her worst showing in eight years of regular campaign in this storied gathering of the best junior players in the world.

Marcel Puyat finished just a shade better in a tie for 58th after a first-over 77, himself unable to flash the A game needed in the mad dash to the finish.

His Friday scorecard showed three birdies that were easily nullified by two double bogeys and four bogeys.

Emiliano Grillo, now one of Argentina's top amateurs who goes to the David Leadbetter Academy in Florida like KTR scholars Puyat and Ardina, won the boys' crown running away by shot at 66 for 205, 11 shots better than Puyat's 77.

If in any consolation, Puyat posted the best finish by a Filipino since Rosen Rodriguez placed second in 2007.

"A lot of hard work is needed for (me to win this age group," said Ardina's father Ed in Filipino, taking note of the physique of the Korean and Thai players who finished ahead of her.

Ardina failed to measure up with Jung who created the par-5s like long par-fo and easily picked up the needed birdies.

Ardina, a three-time age group champion of the Junior World, went to San Diego riding the momentum of a scintillating win in the PNGA tourney in Oregon, a season-up to the Philippine Amateur back home.

College-bound Cyrus Rodriguez, meanwhile, played her final Junior

ARDINA

World round with a two-under 70-209 for a respectable 16th place finish.

NOTES: The boys summer swimmer to Delta with a shot a two over major meets. Her US Jets, where Anita Lenzo is also entered and the US Nationals, where she and Rodriguez qualified. The list of eight-year-old Korean 12-members gave many officials a scare when the 10-old prevent shot up with outplaying to her daughter Thursday. Another panel, Troy Arnold, came to the course and finished the job.

Jordan rips Powerade-RP

By Nesseng R. Castillo

TAIPEI—POWERADE-TEAM PILIPINAS got its first taste of high-caliber international competition Saturday night—and left from a whipping-wise-worthy like.

Defending champion Jordan, much-more fluid and outpolished internationally, dealt the Filipinos an unforgiving 90-58 drubbing to open its campaign in the 21st William Jones Cup in the Hsinchuang gymnasium here.

Already with a decided edge in height and built, the Jordanians showed the Filipinos a thing or two about defense, as they accented their offensive thrust to just five unanswered quarter points en the way to the rout.

PLAYERS, coaches, team officials and supporters of San Miguel Beer whoop it up at the Araneta Coliseum court after bagging the Honda PBA Fiesta Cup Friday night with a Game 7 victory over Barangay Ginebra. Beerman Mick Pennisi flew to Chinese Taipei immediately yesterday to join the Powerade-RP team in the Jones Cup.

The Philippines avoided becoming the only whipping boy of the first day of hostilities—quite odd for a team that was much bulkier (blood) to contend for a second title here with a squad made up of the finest pro stars back home.

Lakmusyon: Instead the Singaporean roster of the inaugurals earlier after ripping Chinese Taipei 8, 83-61, behind 32 points from main-man Rudi Al-Shaikh.

Coach Ong Quiao was obviously displeased, but said his first test so sound alarmed.

"It's good to lose big at the start, so that the boys will know that they have their work cut out for them," said Quiao, a first-time national coach who has seen several PBA titles.

Only Asi Taulava was able to thumb in

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Only Asi Taulava was able to thumb in

nate digits for the Philippines with 11.

"We have a lot of adjustments to make," he said. "First hope to make it to Turkey (for the World Championships), we should find a way to beat this team. Otherwise, our chances are diminished.

"Between today and Aug. 8 (the start of the World Championship qualifier), we have to do something drastic," he added.

The Filipinos play Chinese Taipei-A, another pre-tournament favorite, at 7 p.m. Sunday.

"The Philippines is a very good team and I don't think that it played its normal game," said Jordanian coach Marie Imlieux with best in hand. "Last time we played them, they had more trash, especially the guards who are very good."

The Philippines played without a legitimate point guard from its original roster, with Jaypee Belencbreed serving just before zip off together with Mick Pennisi and Chris Ross.

Quiao did not rule them.

Wynne Arboleda, Enrico Villa posted at Borgy King where he tapped to push-hit for the injured Belencbreed and Ilyes Reyes, hit a triple in the dying seconds of the first period that made it 15-17 before the big drought came.

From that run-point lead, the Jordanians opened it all up with a 20-9 bomb for a 37-18 lead.

The scores:

JORDAN 90—Abbas 21, Wright 17, Amasha 10, Hasan 10, Sagbini 8, Abed 8, Abed 5, Awadh, Hadi 4, Tamimi 2, Bsaiso 2

PHILIPPINES-PEPPER 58—Taulava 11, Ayala 9, Reyes 6, Castro 5, Chiongson 5, Yap 5, Arboleda 4, Ross 4, Miller 3, Belencbreed 2, De Ocampo 0

Quarters: 8-18, 42-18, 72-41, 90-58

San Miguel tastes fruit of massive build-up

By Francis TJ. Cobus

ROUTE 66 HAS TO SCROLL DOWN TO THE SAN Miguel Beer roster to find someone who cannot earn for any other team to the league.

And even then, that guy would probably be a key reserve of another squad.

Still, it took the Beermen four long years to finally end a title drought.

That fact did not escape San Miguel coach Siot Tanquingcen Friday night when, amid the celebratory mood inside the Beermen's locker room, he took time out to extend a little apology to the fans.

"I'm sorry they had to wait this long," Tanquingcen said after the match.

Think about it.

The team kept the core of its successful run early in the millennium intact. Dondon Hontiveros, Timmy Salado, Danny Ildefonso, Ilaro an Pelea, Olsen Racela. Through saints (drafting, they picked up promising young players along the way such as Jesus Villanueva, Bonbon Custodio and Jesse Rosas.

And then by way of trades came other big names: Mick Pennisi, Wesley Gonzales, Mike Cortez, Lordy Tugade and Marc Pingris.

Still, the Beermen had to fall before finally nailing a league-best 10th title.

"[The dry spell] weighs us to be patient," Tanquingcen said after the Beermen demolished the Kings, 98-79, to bag the Honda PBA Fiesta Cup Friday night at the packed Araneta Coliseum.

And they did need a lot of patience, needing seven games before finally winning their first crown since the 2005 Fiesta Cup.

"When I first started with San Miguel, I knew the expectations were high," added the former UST star. "But until like to thank God for the opportunity to win championship."

Now, the Beermen have something to show for all that massive build-up over the years. And they, too, finally have something to give their supporters a reason to celebrate.

"I've been with San Miguel long enough to know how hard our fans are," said a boyish-looking Racela. "This is for them."

This, and another title soon, perhaps?

"We'd like to enjoy this first," said Tanquingcen. "Then we'll start preparing for the Philippine Cup."

Shane still at it, challenges Pacquiao at 140

By Ray Leaño

SHANE MOSLEY WILL DO ANYTHING, including going down to 140 lb, to forge a fight with Manny Pacquiao.

With World Boxing Organization welterweight king Miguel Cotto licensing forge as the Filipino ring icon's next opponent, Mosley went the extra mile to answer the attention of Team Pacquiao.

The World Boxing Association welterweight champion told Ben Thompson of Fightdope on Wednesday that he wants to challenge Pacquiao for his International Boxing Organization light welterweight crown.

According to the 37-year-old Mosley, he made the tempting offer because he had never won the 146-lb crown and he wants to claim Pacquiao's pound-for-pound tag.

Though he'll initially given up dusting Pacquiao, Mosley said the thought of his legacy prompted him to step up the plate again.

Mosley-who'd been beaten by Cotto, said his proposed should make both their teams and Freddie Roach, the protégé and trainer of Pacquiao, respectively happy.

Arum is willing to pit Pacquiao against Cotto in a catch weights of 145 pounds. For his part, Roach is willing to give Mosley a shot at 145 pounds.

As an added bait, Mosley said he's agreeable to a 60-40 percent rotation split.

HOSLEY

To an artist who was mentored by the ocean breeze

BARE EYE

Ricardo Fernández

COMMENTARY FROM CALIFORNIA

Regarding your column about PF athletes missing the train to their next gold medal bout. The train might as well leave without me athletes. It will earn so many an embarrassing measure in Lane. Bus only. (As is only the SEA Games. What more if it were the Olympics, no? I think the only solution to avert same sparta debacles is a moratorium on foreign participation until such time that we are truly ready to defeat.

Am still interested in Pinoy Olympic medalists though, so pay Arnold the governor his dividend there stupid Imbongh Fridays a month to help solve the 26-billion-dollar deficit. Imchaser off retired there working!

PERCY LELLA
Sacramento, California

* * *

NO COMMENT...

* * *

2ND MINUTE FROM STUDIO?

Willy Agatos of Bangal, Ilocos Norte, passed away on Friday in Sydney, Australia. He was 55.

That information was sent by Willy's sister, Maria, who said he died of liver cancer.

Receiving word of death from Willy's former wife, Ana Mary, deserved 12 years ago) reached us from Sydney.

"It is my sad duty to inform you that Willy Agatos passed away peacefully 3 a.m. Sydney time this day the 17th of July 2009 at the Canterbury Hospital in Sydney. Willy's son Willyto and daughter Andrea were at his bedside.

"Willy was a finalist in many art competitions in the whole of Australia. He was much loved by Filipinos and Arabics and will be sorely missed."

* * *

COMMENT

Kindly use a pronoun for this gifted person who has left us too soon.

In my case, there's someone that I wanted, even once, able to offer a sincere thanks in this genuine artist, the least one, he with the heaviest hair, the best look, who always signed his works with a Flurion of good and elegance.

Thank you, dear friend, for sharing with us your brilliance.

You never for a moment rattled to help us when you selflessly provided the backbone for Tempo, when we put up and launched their paper with Ding Marcelo in 1982.

When we lost the Sarge editorship under the Marcos rule after six months, you gave us a hand—helped us back on our feet—to put up Sports Flash, which became an instant success with your classic, often militant, art works and editorial cartoons.

* * *

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

From Maria Agatos, social worker and the artist's younger sister:

"Yes, Kuya was born in Barsa Nova where he was a hall-of-fame member in cosmopolitan son of Bangui. He last came home in 2007 where our mother died. Our father, who died ahead of my mother, was a carpenter. Willy enrolled in the St. Lawrence Academy and the University of the East. He was both an artist and writer. He won many times as awardee in the Metrobank and San Miguel art contests; also an all-time drinker (joke only). He worked with the Times Journal, Tempo and Manila Bulletin. He was here a free-lance artist in Australia and also won many awards in art contests there."

It's said that Willy Agatos had, in free moments, the stress and the sighing of the breeze.

His first keyboard art instruments was said to be the fingering, the lovely ring and wrinkle of the rosewood front that bundles into the walls, the Pinoy street houses.

He was said to have worked on his first master-pieces—with only the fingling as pen and brush—by the seaside, the cabal pesades One sand moving as flowing canvas.

* * *

CLOSING COMMENT

Willy, it's not too surprising that you suddenly left us on a stormy day with the breeze smiling a wet clinge through the moment friends in your hometown, close to the ocean.

The sea itself knew there may never be another bare-eye pigeon to fly our way again.

Fly on high, my dear lonesome friend.

Tamaraws . . .

The Archers, who were held to three lowest point productions in a 63-46 blowout loss to UE last week, continued to struggle with a 22 percent shooting mark.

For the second straight game, ex-Ist Aide-player secured to close his figures.

Its juniors action, John Cast fired 18 points, while Christian Cantada added 14 numbers and 17 boards to lead UE past FEU, 70-62, for its second straight to-morph at the PSAC Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Baby Tamaraws dropped in 1-1 like the Adamson Baby Falcons, who hosted in Irvin Mondonedo 17 points and 10 rebounds in dumping the visitors 109-76 at Antipolo's Sumulong, 90-64.

Meanwhile, defending champion Ateneo and University of Santo Tomas dispute the wild lead in varsity action at 4 p.m. today at the Philsports Arena in Pasig.

Missed tilts to recover from recent losses in the first game at 2 p.m.

Burlington

BURLINGTON'S HELP Arsenio Dimaano of Burlington presents her company's contribution to the national team participating in the Jones Cup. Burlington's Stock ICT tuxire will be the squad's official onsite. Present during the turnover were assistant national coach Eric Altamirano and players Kerby Raymundo, Arwind Santos and Asi Taulava.

British Open shockers

Tiger misses cut; 'Old man' Watson shares lead

TURNBERRY, SCOTLAND—TOM WATSON WILL LEAD THE British Open into the weekend while Tiger Woods will be heading home after missing the cut on Friday.

The 59-year-old Watson rolled in rare responsibility long putts, danced a Norduk jig on the 18th green and walked off tied with unheralded Australian Steve Marino for the 36-hole lead at Turnberry, which struck back with a fury thanks to a stiff breeze whipping off the Firth of Clyde.

Marino is the oldest player ever to lead a major. Watson shot 68 in treacherous conditions and will go out in the final group on Saturday with Watson, another 60-something 49-year-old Mark Calcavecchia, will start one stroke back.

Woods won't be around to see how it all turns out. He took two double bogeys on the back side, bumped off with a 1-over 71 and missed the cut by a stroke for only the second time in his professional career.

"I was just a little off today," said Woods, who came into golf's oldest championship as an overwhelming favorite after winning three times since his return from knee surgery. "I kept overpowering my problems out there."

Major title No. 15 will have to wait.

"I hit some bad tee shots, some pulls off bad lies when I didn't get it up and down," Woods said. "I kept making mistakes after mistake."

Watson, trying to shatter the record for the oldest major winner, but all his had about at the start. The five-time Open champion bogeyed five out of six holes on the front—four of them in a row—but remarkably played the final 13 holes in 4 under.

He signed for a 70 that might have been more impressive than his bogey-free 65 in the opening round.

"I wouldn't be here if I didn't think I could win," Watson said.

Woods had trained only once on a major show turning pro, and that was at the 2006 US Open shortly after the death of his father, Earl. He tried to rally, making birdies on two of the last three holes, but wound up one stroke shy of Oct. Cut line.

"Unfortunately, it just didn't happen," Woods said. "Six double I'm frustrated. I was playing well the first seven holes, right there in the championship. I felt like if I was under par for the tournament, I would be in the top 10. Unlike's the that. I were the other way."

The top 70, plus ties, make it to the final two rounds. The British Open doesn't have a 10-shot rule, which would allow anyone within that margin of the lead to make the cut.

Woods was 10 behind co-leaders Marino and Watson.

Since the '36 wins at Pilegrd Inn, Woods had made the cut in 45 consecutive tournaments worldwide. He opened with a disappointing 71 in much easier conditions on Thursday, but was still in decent shape when he made the cuts.

There, it all fell apart.

Woods' tee shot at No. 10 sailed wildly into the tall grass to the right of the fairway...a familiar problem both days—and it was clear he was in trouble when he hit a provisional. Even with dozens of fans helping him look, he could only find a second shot in the tall ball—who knows how long that's been there!—took a one-stroke penalty and wound up with a double-bogey 6.

He made bogey at the 12th after driving into a fairway bunker, then had another double at 13. He was only 129 yards away in the first cut of rough—after his tee shot, then needed five more strokes to get done. A ragged approach rained the green, a sloppy chip failed to stay on, and a missed putt from about 5 feet sent him rumbling into an even deeper hole.

Watson began to rally with two birdies around the turn, but he closed with a real flourish. The long putt at No. 16 plopped right in the center of the cup, prompting Watson to pump both fists. The one from the edge of the 18th green dropped, too, and Peterson kicked his right leg with glee, hardly looking like a guy who had his left hip replaced last October.

He would easily be the oldest major champion in golf history. Julius Boros was 48 when he won the second at the 1968 US PGA Championship.

Five-time world leader Miguel Angel Jimenez struggled to a 73. The ponytailed, cigar-smoking Spaniard got off to a glitty start but held it together and joined the pack at 1-37.

AP

TOM WATSON celebrates with a 100k dance after sinking a birdie putt on the 18th hole on the same day Tiger Woods got kicked out of the tournament.

TOM JUST the second time in 49 majors, Tiger Woods will not cut an imposing figure during the weekend.

SPORTSWATCH

Perez, Tan rule GT races

PAUL HENDERSON PEREZ AND Wilbert Tan powered on the absence of leader John Asuncion to split racing honors recently in the third leg of the 2009 Yokohama Philippine GT Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

It was Tan who defied the Zen driver of the start as he raked the 11-lap Sprint Race 1 he clocked 21 minutes and 52.115 seconds to claim the title in the GT 300 class over JP Ilarmino of the Hard Rubber Racing Team.

Perez finished in second overall 13.316 seconds behind Tan to rule the GT 125 over Nicole Fernandez.

Tan controlled the Mian Race during the first three laps when an engine overhaul later knocked out of the race. Perez took over the top spot and held on all the way to the finish line clocking 20 minutes and 2.702 seconds to complete a sweep in the GT 125 division.

PEREZ

Agui ladies foil Alabang rivals

AGUINALDO POOLE A GOLD 148 TWEN NYPED HARDED XL along in the countback in bag the Diara A crown even as Villamor made it back-to-back in Class B in the fourth leg of the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines (WGAP) circuit at the host's Couples course in Silang, Cavite, last Tuesday.

Karen Kho shot 41 points under the Modified Stableford scoring system, while Jonah Chloe May Pichenbach and Lyra Castillo had 35, 27 and 21 points, respectively, as Aguinaldo finally made its move after mediocre campaigns in the first three legs of the circuit.

Alabang, the overall leader with 10 points after three legs, also surrendered a 146 but settled for second after losing in the countback. Pila Rivas made 28 while Vivian Chua, Vidalyn Tamalia and Christine Poga had 26, 27 and 24 points, respectively.

Villamor sustained its romp at home last month as it posted the Class B plum with a 320 for a winning three-point triumph over Canlubang (144). Orchard finished third with a 143.

Blu Boys nip Britons in ISF debut

SASKATOON, CANADA—THE PHILIPPINES scored all of its runs in the fourth inning to stop Great Britain, 4-3, Friday at the start of the 58 International Softball Federation men's world championship at the Sob Uni Jaspe Stadium inside the Confederation Park here.

Dexarus 1-8 after three innings, the Blu Boys blasted losing pitcher James Arby to the fourth with four hits that included a three-run double by Oscar Bradshaw.

After reaching third on a passed ball, Bradshaw scored on a sacrifice bunt by Jacinto Abello as the Blu Boys took the lead for good at 4-1.

Pitcher Rogelio Rojas picked up the win although he needed a defensive gem from Ayad Rosales in the bottom of the seventh to end the Britons' scoring threat.

After Great Britain put two more on board with two outs, third baseman Rosales muffed out the throw by pulling a Briton who tried to steal second.

American Softball Association Philippines president Jess Henri Dacillao called from Manila to congratulate the Blu Boys through delegation head Elbo Diaz.

"Congratulations, keep up the good work," said Dacillao.

The Philippines next plays Mexico on Sunday (Monday in Manila) before meeting defending champion New Zealand Sunday.

The Blu Boys take on former winner the United States Monday, Japan Tuesday, Suwanna Wednesday before ending their Pool A elimination schedule against Denmark Thursday.

Orlando Binamo opened RP's fateful fourth with a single then advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by Jasper Cabrera that went for a hit.

Marcelo Sharma, Orlando's younger brother, loaded the bags with another single before Bradshaw cleared the bases with a line drive that sailed over the head of the British shortstop.

Tour de France: Shots fired, 2 riders hurt

COLMAR, FRANCE—LANCE Armstrong lost a teammate to his quest for an eighth Tour de France triumph with Yaroslav Popovych of Australia abandoning the race could have lost even more as two riders were shot during Friday's 12th stage.

New Zealand's Julian Dennard Apalin's Oscar Freire, a three-time former world champion, were slightly injured in what their teammate manager saw as an ally shooting while riders in northeast France. Armstrong finished the stage slackened in the main pack and stayed in third place overall.

Freire and Dean, who are expected to start Saturday's stage, were shot during the descent of the demanding Col du Platzerwasel, almost 50 kilometers (30 miles) from the finish of the stage between Vittel and Colmar. Police were investigating.

A projectile embedded in Freire's thigh was removed by a Nabobash team doctor. Dean's right index finger was injured, said Martyn Pongracz, a spokesperson for his Garmin-Slipstream team.

The range was seen by German rider Heinrich Haussler, who exclaimed the pack with a solo breakaway on a rainy and cold day.

AN EMOTIONAL Haussler wipes his eyes after winning the 12th stage.

Armstrong remained eight seconds behind race leader Rinaldo Montcoutié of Italy, who is not regarded as a potential Tour winner. Armstrong's Astana teammate and roster rival Alberto Contador, the Tour winner in 2007, is second, two seconds ahead of Armstrong.

"I don't remember a day in the Tour that has been colder than this one," Armstrong said.

AP

Marcelo, eight other Pinoy karters grab pole positions

CARMONA, CAVITE—EIGHT PINOYS, led by ace karter Stefano Marcelo of Bataan's Sea Miguel Competition Marcelo Racing, take pole positions in today's pre-final round of the 2009 Asian Karting Open Championship for the Senior and Shigeolin Port Victor Karting Super Series at the Carmona Circuit, Philippines.

Marcelo topped the qualifying time trials and all three qualifying heats in this event.

He and another Filipino, reigning Asian ROK champion John Tavallos, will start 1-2 in today's pre-final of the Formula 125 Open Masters and the ROK classes against Thai karter Pasin Lathouwers and Jet Racing's Jon Christian, who will start third and fourth, respectively.

Defending champion Tin Jabsal will start at No. 7 spot behind Malaysian Imran Sulaiman Noor and IPG Iron runner John Alonzo of Shamrocks Inc. Miguel Corporation-Marcelo Racing.

"I think they (opponents) are just talking it show and will throw their tryin hats in the pre-final and final heats," explained Marcelo. "For me, what's important is I'll get the best to deliver the glory for our country."

The other Filipinos taking the pole positions in this event sanctioned by the CIK and the Automobile Association of the Philippines are Ricky Benitez in the Formula 125 Open Junior and ART-Honwa, VJ Tolosa of PCB-Tough Gear Racing in the Junior ROK, Yeo-AR Tolosa of PCB-Tough Gear Racing in the ROK Junior and Carl Dallegion Jr. of PCB-Tough Gear Racing in the Cadet 60.

Races start at 1:00 p.m.

Sunday SPORTS

JUMPIN' Ernesto Dela Cruz (left) of San Sebastian College–Recoletos Cavite goes up for a scissor against a Jolipina Lyceum Subic defender in yesterday's game. RENY ORTIZ JR.

SSC-Cavite, CEU subdue foes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DEFENDING CHAMPION SAN SEBASTIAN College–Recoletos Cavite bunched its title bid impressively even as Centro Escolar survived a scare to down University of Manila, 83-79, in yesterday's opening Cavite bill of the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities men's basketball tournament.

Holdovers Jeojan Grandia and Eric Lacorias combined for 35 points as the SSC Baynon blasted Lyceum of Subic Bay, 82-68, to kick off the league's ninth season at the jam-packed Cuneta Astrodome.

SSC-R Cavite coach Ejay Macaraya said he hopes the win would inspire the Baynon, who will attempt to become the first team to score back-to-back titles since SSH dominated the first six tournaments of the league.

The Sanguinian Silver at 1:21 prelim 7-4 (G) advantage in the final three minutes before bedding off the Hawks, who suffered heroics Bayani Indiani and rookies Mckwin Mervet and Jayson Ilray.

Over at the Pinoy Sports Complex, last year's second up SIT thrashed St. Clare, 86-68.

Pre-H-Andrew scores
first game

SSC-R CAVITE (82)—Grandia 18, Lacorias 17, Lardizabal 11, Tito 9, Almadrones 8, Dasa 5, Ardiamento 4, reyes 2, Perez 1, Pampo 0, Marquez 0, Arcan 0

LCSB (68)—Collado 22, Bayde 12, Velasco 11, Rule 8, Ebdag 6, Ebora 5, Valencia 2, Cano 2, Lapuebl 1, Lapuebl 1, Fernandez 0, Carter 0, Pantaleon 0

Quarters: 14-17, 32-33, 62-50, 82-68

Second Game

CEU 86—Regio 17, Capati 16, Suarez 15, Marquez 9, Reyes 8, Flores 7, Lalaquez 6, Estrada 6, Santos 2, Co 2, Mendoza 2, Jacinto 1

UM 79—Balolong 17, Day 14, Ribosa 9, Sabbad 8, Gamos 8, Angeles 6, Yuson 5, Dalusong 4, Galvez 2, Pabon 2, Jacob 2, Basari, Samuel

Quarters: 14-12, 28-26, 51-40, 83-79

SSH 81 (Jose Ignacio Complex)
9 a.m.—SIT (G) def.
10:30 a.m.—CSB vs St. Jerome's (Sr)
11 a.m.—St. Clement (G) vs
12:30 p.m.—SSH (G) vs De La Salle (Das)
2 p.m.—AMA (G) vs
3:30 p.m.—MU vs
LSB (Das)

Fiba probe into SBP-BAP row gets going

IN HUDDLE

Beth Cerila

TOMORROW or the first day set by the Fiba's special three-man committee composed of Carl Ching Wesley, Wole Ibiodumi and a Fiba lawyer for the hearing on the BAP-SBP row in Geneva.

The representatives from the SBP and the BAP are scheduled to leave today for the long journey to Geneva, Switzerland, where the Fiba headquarters is based.

However, a source tied to colleague sought my assistance last Friday to confirm a report that the Swiss Embassy here in Manila could not be able to issue visas to SBP officials Prospero Pelaez (president), Reynaldo Villafuerte (chair) and Christian Tan in time for them to be able to attend the three-day hearing.

The BAP had applied for Swiss visas a little weeks ago in the day and my colleague, adding that countries traveling to Switzerland and England are required to secure individual visas.

My colleague also informed me that the members of the SBP group had filed their applications two days ahead of the BAP and had gotten their visas in time for their airline booking to Geneva.

He said the SBP had a change of heart at the last minute and has decided to attend the hearing.

* * *

"SBP will be represented by chair Usec Warren, vice-chair Ricky Vargas, executive director Sidi Sala and legal counsel Marlowe Arceneaux," the source told me.

"And who knows, there's even a chance that MVP (SBP president Manuel V. Pangilinan) might decide to join the group, just to be able to personally lionel and a certain high-ranking Fiba official."

* * *

Later that same day my colleague and I confirmed that the BAP group had indeed encountered problems at the Swiss Embassy and would not be able to get their visas in time for the first hearing.

While there are reports that only SBP legal counsel Jovie Advincula would be able to make it to Geneva, it seems unlikely that high ranking government officials like Pelaez and Villafuerte could not pull some strings to expedite the processing of their visas.

My colleague said he expects a showdown in Geneva.

"But it will not be between the SBP and the BAP," he said with a wink.

Personally, I dont feel that the Philippines will be grounded. Should there be a solid showing, it will probably be all for the good of Philippine basketball.

* * *

The Filipino men and women who successfully scaled the summit of Mount Everest got an unexpected windfall two years after the feat.

Led by Leo Dimirin, the first Filipino to reach the world's highest peak, the group was honored during the 15th anniversary celebration of Discovery Network in the Middle East/Africa in Dubai last week.

As special guests of the affair, the mountaineers may have expected to be awarded a simple plaque or trophy, but they will be getting a lot more than what they had hoped for.

Discovery's new marketing man Jacque Daly, you see, had invited the generous PSC chair Harry Angping to award what Jacque described as a "one-of-a-kind open crystal trophy" to each of the mountaineers.

To top the short speech he delivered on stage, Harry invited the mountaineers to step by at his office in Vito Cruz.

Harry said he had a gift for each of them—which everyone presumed to be towards the cause.

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Bugaoi

Sunday BIZ

watch your Focus Group Discussions over the Internet

Positive Mental Energy

Inspired exec raring to paint town 'green'

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Questions that** sustain your leadership /B2

■ **It's a go for "green"** lights in CDO /B2

■ **Laguna folk goes** banana leaves /B4

Recto pushes eco-friendly goods proudly made in RP

By Penelope P Endaya

A PUBLIC school gets the quality of paint it deserves.

WHEN APPLYING PAINT TO PARTS OF their houses, do homemakers think of the consequences the potentially harmful chemical mix will have on the environment?

So people care at all, apart from the cost of paint and the effort it will have on their personal space?

Alejandrino "Alex" Recto realized some these questions and decided to come out with his own products of which non-Taggers would approve.

"I'm for Philippines [.] Who is the first paint to qualify with the SGS," Recto says referring to his product. "[It's] qualified as eco-friendly meaning, it does not have toxic chemicals. It meets global standards."

So who says anyone may conduct research to find out if all the other brands pass international standards.

"They don't," he says.

Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS) is an international source that documents, tests and certifies industrial quality claims.

Recto's company, Amon Marketing, produces White wood glue—the first manufacturer to source its raw materials, such as cassava, entirely from the Philippines.

Recto says he unveils to work on the company's other product, White Permanent paint, which still imports its main components abroad, but he adds that Amon Marketing is now looking at new materials to reduce its import dependence.

But Amon Marketing's president, Recto's decision to paint the town green has become an advocacy and a campaign to promote social entrepreneurship.

"In that way people participate, rather than just use," he says. "We set a group that is campaigning, through our product lines, (to protect the) environment. Our products have passed world standards and [are] 10-year-made."

Not for export's sake

Recto can not emphasize enough the importance of Filipino products complying with world standards.

"People are now looking for quality," says Recto, whose company has been distributing industrial materials for quite some time.

Filipino products must comply with world standards, even if they are not bound for markets abroad.

What's happening now is, products that have been our standard for export are the only ones that get to pass world standards, Recto says in Filipino. Products produced for local consumption suffer in quality.

"And why should that be the case?" he asks.

Embarrassing

"The quality level

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Questions that sustain your leadership

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

JUDGE A PERSON BY THEIR questions, rather than their answers." – Voltaire

The willingness to ask questions coupled with the discipline to seek out answers separates leaders from followers. Effective questers ascertain assumptions, inquire about the environment around them and probe into the future. They have an insatiable appetite to learn and they convert their knowledge to action at light speed.

Value of questions

While leaders constantly investigate their surroundings, the most important questions they ask are the ones they pose to themselves. By routinely questioning their goals, motives and purpose, leaders create their will. Identity along with their sense of perspective. Consider the following benefits of examining yourself as a leader.

1) Quality questions create a quality life.

You only get answers to the questions you ask. If you won't dare to wrestle with the tough dilemmas in life, then you'll live small.

2) Focused questions stimulate creative thinking.

A well-considered question penetrates to the heart of the matter and triggers new ideas and insights.

3) Honest questions lead to solid convictions.

Inquisitiveness clarifies morals and beliefs. Values are shaped when you force yourself to be truthful in answering tough questions about where you stand on key issues.

4) Correct questions help us find ourselves and our mission.

Tackling life's biggest questions brings direction and meaning to life's journey. Bob Buford captures this thought in his book, The Second Half.

What is your passion? What have you achieved? What have you done awesomely well? How are you wired? Where do you belong? What are the 'shoulds' that have trailed you during the first half? These and other questions like them will direct you toward the self you've discovered. A leader builds exercise of learning, whereas a leader becomes a river of learning for others.

2) Am I genuinely interested in others?

This question delves into motives. An EQ-Margot cynically observed, "A man always has two reasons for doing anything—a good reason and the real reason." Most leaders are inclined to figure out situations before anyone else, they have capacity to take advantage of others.

For this reason, it's essential to regularly question your motives. That's the first line of defense manipulation and motivation. The former moves people for personal benefit, while the latter moves people for mutual gain.

3) Am I doing what I love and loving what I do?

This question determines passion. You will never find your passion doing work you despise. If you go to work only to fulfill processes and functions then you're in jeopardy of losing your humanity and missing true success.

"Find your passion and follow it," is all the career advice you'll ever need. Passion gives you the edge by endowing you with more energy than others have.

4) Am I taking others to a higher level?

This question has to do with mission. Regardless of your industry as a leader, you're in the people development business. Fulfilling your mission depends upon lifting the performance of those you lead.

As Zig Ziglar says, "You can get everything in life that you want if you will just help enough other people get what they want." By adding value to those you lead, you're investing in trust and women with the potential to multiply your influence exponentially.

5) Am I taking enough risks today?

Risk is the thing most people tolerate about your likelihood of success.

In fact, if I spot one day observing your priorities, behaviors, and interactions with people, then, with about 90 percent accuracy, I could let you know your leadership potential. Why would I be so certain to my judgment? Because I've learned that the secret of your success is determined by your daily agenda.

Conclusion

The great artist, Pablo Picasso, once remarked, "Computers are useless. They can only give you answers."

I tend to agree, and I think Picasso's observation carries truth for leaders as well. Regardless of your technical skill or relational charm, you'll be inhibited as a leader until you learn the art of asking questions. Knowing how has merit, but influencers will always be the men and women who understand why.

Author of the 360° Leadership Dr. Maxwell delivers his workshop on July 28-29 at the Bliss Hotel in Bonifacio Global City. Maxwell is a New York Times bestselling author and the country's leading motivational speaker in Pinoy's Kung will facilitate this workshop. Call 0917-2849 or 3857-0111 to register.

Inspired exec raring . . .

From page B1

of most of our products has become so huge it has become actual already the—but there, shop for products ... the quality is so low, [it's] embarrassing," he says.

Reyes also shares how quality is neglected by the country's regulators.

He says a regulatory board that ought to spearhead quality check, but is passive when it comes to compliance.

He added that companies go to the regulators for compliance instead of the other way around.

"What happens is, for you to be qualified, you have to go to their office to submit," he said.

"The commission desires much more, and we have organizations checking. We asked them, do you have polluted will to go after those who don't [comply]? They couldn't answer me," he says.

He is proud to say that NVite Fermented Paint holds the distinction of being the country's first such eco-friendly product.

Other paints are known to have volatile organic compounds, high on toxicity and having a odour like smell.

"We're not a big company [but] we're trying [to produce] a thousand or two thousand gallons [of NVite paint] a month," says Reyes.

By increasing production volumes, Reyes says he hopes to influence more people to switch to NVite products.

With an ISO certification in tow, Reyes says that his company can sell NVite products abroad. "If it wants to."

However, at present, he says he wants to focus on the Philippine market because "the country deserves it."

Reyes has since shared NVite products with the public, donating 30 to 32 gallons to two schools in Davao and one in Manila during the Brigada Eskwela last June, just before classes opened.

By organizing old schools, he says he is happy to see how his environment-friendly products can bring fresh change to establish paint such as school.

Paint tips

Reyes has taken NVite Paint a step ahead in the field. NVite Paint products are premixed, and this saves painters time in getting the right ratio through trial and error. Reyes says that a lot of common practices among wall colors are outdated. He says he is very concerned about paint hazardness.

"The way old painters do it, they put calcimine powder to thicken the paint. That increases the formulation of the paint already," says Reyes.

Since most paints are solvent-based, Reyes says, the natural law of old versus new veneer will paint to crack and peel.

"If the paint cannot handle the moisture, it cracks," he says. This, in turn, causes peeling.

"Regular paint cannot breathe due to water because of its composition," he explains.

Water-based paint do not have that problem.

Water such as rain, he says "passes through" the wall.

"You will see the sweat outside the wall, but the paint is still there. It won't crack...It goes right through the paint," he adds.

Reyes says he now considers seminars to let people know "what quality means" in their operation.

In the last 3 years, he says, it has become more evident to him to offer quality as a choice to consumers.

Certified eco-friendly

Some consumers have raised concerns, even questions on the effectiveness of eco-friendly products.

The fear of it being a novelty has been debunked by Reyes. He says that it is the main reason why NVite has passed all the requirements of SIRIM.

He is considerate of producing high-quality results in coming up with NVite.

"You can test this paint hand in hand with any paint," claim Reyes.

His product has a 5 year warranty attributed to it—a period in order brands with warranty of 2 to 3 years—and he is "not scared to say that his product is better."

Reyes finds comfort in his contribution to the Philippine industry.

Aside from his commitment to eco-friendliness, quality and color endurance, Reyes is happy to share that his NVite products are low cost 30 colors to choose from. There's metallic sunburst, flower bloom and monsoon orange apart from green.

He adds that, upon request, his company can provide colors for customers as well.

THE WORDS make much more sense when eco-friendly paint is used.

It's a go for 'green' lights in CDO

By Rita Fortin
Contributor

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—THIS very progressive city located in Northern Mindanao will soon "go green" as 100,000 compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) will be distributed for free to residential customers this coming August as part of the government's energy efficiency program.

With economic growth in energy consumption consistently among the highest in the country, Cagayan de Oro City needs to meet its rising energy requirements.

Thus, a Department of Energy (DOE) project that will help reduce the peak demand and energy consumption by simply replacing incandescent bulbs with more efficient CFLs will be a welcome solution to the lack of power plants in the area.

Cagayan Electric Power and Light Company (Cepalco), the fourth largest privately owned electric distribution company in the country serving the city of Cagayan de Oro, the municipalities of Tagoloan, Villanueva, Jasaan and the Phivedec Industrial Estate is participating to the half-a-million project.

Cepalco's residential customers can visit any of its sub-offices located in Carmen, Puntod and Puerto with their latest official receipts, identification card and two functioning incandescent bulbs of any wattage, which would be replaced by Cepalco with a 15-Watt CFL.

The CFLs provided by DOE for the project are estimated to last for about 10,000 hours. This significant disparity in life span between CFLs and incandescents' bulbs will result to a reduction in energy consumption and electric bills.

Ralph Pagsin, Cepalco vice president, said electric distribution utilities will also benefit from this demand side management (DSM) project since it will result to a reduction in demand during peak hours thus freeing the utility's distribution facilities for more productive use and delaying the upgrading of its facilities or purchases of new equipment.

Likewise, this will result in the reduction of customer's electric bills due to the reduced wattage of the CFL relative to reducing the quality of the light that it emits.

"It's a win-win-win project which Cepalco wholeheartedly supports," Pagsin said.

Other utility firms that will be distributing CFLs in their respective franchise areas are Manila Electric Company (Meralco), Visayan Electric Company (Cebeco I,II,III), Davao Light and Power Company (Davaco I,II) and about 120 electric cooperatives nationwide.

The bulbs to be surrendered should be in good working condition so that the reduction in wattage will qualify for carbon credits be assured, said this is part of the project transactions. Later on, the recovered incandescent bulbs will be crushed and disposed of properly.

The project was made possible through a $21 million concessional loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), of which $16 million will be set aside for the Southern Residential Lighting Program where 13 million CFLs will be procured.

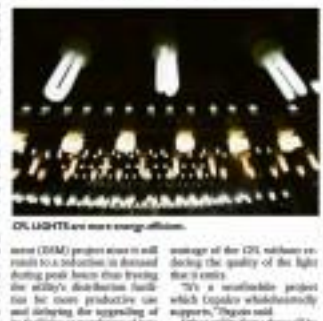
The 450 megawatts that will be taken off the load is approximately 3 percent of the Philippines' total generation capacity and will defer investments of some $450 million in new power plants. It will also save about $300 million annually in fuel cost, and avoid 300,000 tons of CO2 emissions annually from reduced power generation, which is about $3 million per year.

ADB is the lead financing agency in the Philippine power sector, with a third of its total over $10 billion country lending in generation, transmission, distribution and sector development support. ADB also actively supports the government's power sector restructuring and privatization programs of power plants to encourage competition that helps lower electricity costs.

The focus of ADB's future power sector operations will be on promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency and improving the distribution systems in the rural areas.

(The author is a national officer of the Asian Development Bank.)

THE CEPALCO office in downtown Cagayan de Oro City



CFL LIGHTS are more energy efficient.

Laguna folk goes banana leaves

From page B1

ce cans," she said.

The Dubon program has since expanded to provide additional help to villagers.

In 2007, in connection with the local government, the Sibagat Day-care Center was opened with 30 kids, mostly children of Dubon employees, given scholarships.

The program will also provide villagers with other forms of livelihood, such as the production of handicrafts, and the expansion of its market for banana leaves by supplying stools to use as bar food chairs.

"In a matter of fact, we want Dubon Ltd to be a stand-alone program. Although Binalot organized [the program], we would like to see Dubon to be self-sufficient by finding other opportunities," Manes said.

Export

Manes believes that banana leaves have a potential for export, citing Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia as prospective clients for Philippine banana leaves.

"The only challenge is shelf life, as the [leaves] can stay fresh only up to three days upon delivery," he said.

Manes said the leaves are exposed to direct fire, making it resilient and sanitized.

"It also adds aroma to the food wrapped in it," he added.

Binalot's Dubon program was first recognized in the "one-of-the-best" small business success of the United Parcels Service (UPS) in January 2008.

The company is moving to make the program into a franchise.

"In the long run, we want to expand this further and [apply] it in other areas," said Manes.

BOUNTIFUL. Juan of Binalot.

GOINGS-ON

HSBC named top brand

HSBC has emerged as the top international banking brand in the 2009 Brand Z Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands.

The top 100 brands in the annual rankings comprise 17 categories, including financial institutions, insurance, technology, mobile operators, technology retail and luxury.

It is estimated that the total value of the 100 most valuable brands in the world is $1.36 trillion. HSBC, with an estimated brand value of $40.1 billion, is the top international banking brand in the financial institution category. In the overall ranking, HSBC is the world's 20th most valuable brand.

RIM sales hit $3.4B in Q1

Research In Motion Limited, a world leader in the mobile communications market, has reported first quarter results for the three months, ended May 30, 2009.

Revenue for the first quarter of fiscal 2010 was $3.43 billion, compared with $3.40 billion in the previous quarter and up 20% from $2.24 billion in the same quarter of last year. During the quarter, RIM shipped approximately 7.8 million devices.

Approximately 3.8 million net new BlackBerry® subscriber accounts were added in the quarter.

IBM helps Migi's Corner

This year, IBM Philippines is targeting various institutions nationwide by focusing on the special needs of children for its Kidsmart program.

In line with this, IBM recently reached out to Migi's Corner, located at the pediatric wing of the Philippine Heart Center, to donate an IBM KidSmart Early Learning Program.

Migi's Corner is a special place where sick children can find momentary normalcy and comfort through the various activities provided for in the center.

The corner was inspired by four-year-old Francisco Miguel "Migi" Bahar Dalisay, who was born in Feb. 21, 1994 with a congenital heart disease.

He passed away in the evening of June 2, 1998 after complications during heart operation.

The KidSmart computers are housed in brightly-colored Little Tikes furniture and are equipped with award-winning educational software to help children learn and explore concepts in math, science and language.

It can help children build important collaborative skills such as sharing and working together. More importantly, the KidSmart's fun and interactive activities motivate and encourage and motivate the children at the Center to learn and at the same time play in an otherwise sombre environment.

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	MANILA					to start promptly 9:00 AM
ITEM 01	Interior Lot, S. Rodriguez St. Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City	COMMERCIAL (Vacant Lot)	[illegible]	[illegible] sqm.		34,200,000.00
ITEM 02	Lot 3 Blk. 562 5th Ave. near the LRT Quezon Ave. Station, Makati, Manila	LOT ONLY	[illegible]	[illegible] sqm.		38,738,000.00
ITEM 03	Lot 4622, 4636, 3662, 3661, F.B. Harrison cor. Seven St., San Jose, Pasay City	LOT ONLY	[illegible]	696 sqm.		28,035,000.00
ITEM 04	Lot 2 Blk. 1, 200 Odiveni St., San Roque, Pasay City	COMMERCIAL	[illegible]	185 sqm.	1,730 sqm.	11,000,000.00
ITEM 05	Lot 1 Blk. 6, Yungchiao St., Ayala-San Diego, Makati City	COMMERCIAL	[illegible]	151 sqm.	89 sqm.	10,200,000.00
ITEM 06	Lot 21 Blk. 5, No. 1127 Aurelio St., Sampaloc, Manila	RESIDENTIAL	[illegible]	180 sqm.	252 sqm.	2,700,000.00
ITEM 07	Unit 103, Alamito St., Nido Verde D., Ugong, Pasig City (w/ parking slot)	CONDO UNIT/ RESIDENTIAL	[illegible]		[illegible] sqm.	3,300,000.00
ITEM 08	Unit 3005, Mayan Area Tower Suites, Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City (parking slot #3-2)	CONDO UNIT/ RESIDENTIAL	[illegible] & [illegible]		70.8 sqm.	3,500,000.00
ITEM 09	Unit 1313, The Beak Condo, cr Leviste & San Agustin Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City	CONDO UNIT/ RESIDENTIAL	[illegible]		40 sqm.	2,500,000.00
ITEM 10	Lot 29 Blk. 20 No. 137 Lava St., Cubao Hemandez, Hemdone City	RESIDENTIAL	[illegible]	1,000 sqm.	550 sqm.	16,000,000.00
ITEM 11	No.39 Roman Ramos St., Brgy. Hinulugangan, Cubao, Quezon City	SCHOOL PROPERTY	[illegible]	2,000 sqm.	Various	23,000,000.00
ITEM 12	22nd Floor, Strata 100, Bridge 3, Ave., Bridge Center, Pasig City	PENTHOUSE UNIT	[illegible]		1,200 sqm.	30,000,000.00
ITEM 13	Lot 2 Blk. 3 Municipal Site), Alabang Complex, Tunasan Muntinlupa	COMMERCIAL	[illegible]	2,700 sqm.		84,950,000.00
	LUZON					to start promptly 2:00 PM
ITEM 14	Lot 12th, 3, 11713-A & 107 Alonzo National Road, Valiery Aloma, Santiago City	RESIDENTIAL/ COMMERCIAL	TEC 101, 102, 103 & 104	864.96 sqm.	1,285 sqm.	36,000,000.00
ITEM 15	No. 3 H-13-H-2 National Highway, Poblacion, Cauayan City	LOT ONLY	[illegible]	555 sqm.		10,300,000.00
ITEM 16	Mahanlua Highway, Sitang Santa, Calamabuan City	SCHOOL PROPERTY	[illegible]	11,600 sqm.	1,775 sqm. (1st) 600 sqm. (2nd Floor)	75,000,000.00
ITEM 17	R. A. Linn St., Lipa City, Batangas	COMMERCIAL BUILDING	[illegible]	300 sqm.	1,911 sqm.	50,000,000.00
ITEM 18	Bagong Kalsada, Real, Calamba, Laguna	RESORT	[illegible] & [illegible]	5,297 sqm.	357 sqm.	28,600,000.00
ITEM 19	Lot 3212 & 3216 Brgy. Mayapong Ticlubra, Laguna	LOT ONLY	[illegible] & [illegible]	4,788 sqm.		4,600,000.00
	VISAYAS					to start promptly 2:00 PM
ITEM 20	Roxas-Capulong Road, Banate, Lapu-Lapu City	LOT ONLY	[illegible]	2,511 sqm.		16,000,000.00
	MINDANAO					to start promptly 2:00 PM
ITEM 21	National Highway, Lapulapan, Cagayan de Oro City	LOT ONLY	[illegible]	[illegible] sqm.		70,000,000.00
ITEM 22	Abeng National Highway, C.M. Recto Ave., Brgy. Lapasan, Cagayan De Oro City	COMMERCIAL	[illegible]	2,187 sqm.	60 sqm.	34,000,000.00
ITEM 23	Corrales Extension, Brgy. 22, Poblacion, Cagayan De Oro City	RESIDENTIAL/ COMMERCIAL SUBD./ [illegible]	[illegible], [illegible] & [illegible]	5,00 sqm.	1,00 sqm. (1st) 1,000 sqm. (2nd Floor)	106,750,000.00

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Experts Dish Out Real Score on the Best Mobile Internet Connectivity Service

By Ivan Philipps

Talks about which technology best delivers commercial broadband services in the country continue to hog the headlines today.

True, nothing beats the convenience of having the power of the Internet at-quite literally-the palm of your hands, what with dongles being more accessible and fashionable. But it is the speed, ease, and cost of the data and content transmission that matters most.

This is where the debate comes in as to which between HSPA (High Speed Packet Access) and Wimax (Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access) is better suited for the Filipino mobile market.

HSPA is the more advanced version of the 3G technology that offers mobile Internet connection of up to 7.8 Mbps per user. Wimax, on the other hand, is a new cellular technology that received from the popular WiFi but accommodates a bigger geographical coverage.

Like all things, each technology has its own unique characteristics and implementation. However, if the more than 200 mobile operations worldwide that have deployed HSPA is any indication, then seemed to have an obvious winner.

But don't take it from anyone else. Take it from the experts people who know the ins and outs when it comes to mobile Internet in the country.

Armin Pascal, the Group Head for Marketing of Smart Communications-the largest telecommunications company in the Philippines, and Magnus Gall, vice president of Ericsson Philippines-the leading telecommunications infrastructure and solutions provider in the world; set the record straight and shed light as to why HSPA is the gold standard in the world today when it comes to mobile Internet connectivity.

In your opinion, which technology would best work in the Philippine setting; HSPA or Wimax?

Narzal: *HSPA's unparalleled economies of scale nationally make it the technology of choice that is fit for the Filipinos. The GSM and 3G setting and infrastructure are already in place so there is no need to start from scratch. Wimax is a late mature technology which is very promising but entails costly expenses to put up today. This is why it is*

HSPA is the fastest, easiest and most cost-effective way to deploy mobile broadband in the country, says Gall

NARZAL: The unparalleled economies of scale make HSPA the technology of choice that is fit for the Filipinos today

HSPA that we push for our SmartBro wireless Internet service.

Gall: *HSPA represents the fastest, easiest and most cost-effective way for operators to deploy mobile broadband in the country. Here, there are indications that HSDPA is giving the service the current broadband users want. The price-performance is very high as said. We have less than 2 percent wireless broadband penetration, so there is a huge gap to be filled.*

Do HSPA and Wimax accidentally each other? Or is it possible they can complement one another?

Narzal: *They don't necessarily contradict each other. HSPA and Wimax employ many of the same technologies and their performance is comparable to many areas. They're both designed for high-speed packet data services and share many similar technology enablers. However, there are factors that affect their uptake in rates and coverage.*

Gall: *Comparing radio technologies is never a straightforward undertaking. HSPA can be built out using existing GSM radio network sites and is a software upgrade of installed WCDMA networks. But while the peak data rates, spectral efficiency and network architecture of HSPA and WiMAX are similar, HSPA offers better coverage.*

What are the advantages and disadvantages of both technologies?

Narzal: *HSPA generally uses the same frequencies as the mobile operators are currently using. Since this is just in effect a hardware and software upgrade, there's minimal need to put up new infrastructure except for additional antennas and plug in units. Since our SmartBro uses the HSPA system, end users can connect to the Internet with as fast as up to 3.6 Mbps. But as technology improves, that number can easily go up to 14.4 Mbps.*

Gall: *Wimax is actually good for fixed wireless technology. It can deliver speed of 54 Mbps. While putting up Wimax involves building a whole new network, mobile operators would opt to acquire spectrum for it and use to it to target a slightly different market. So now, SmartBro will remain to be the fastest mobile Internet service in the country.*

What factors would drive wireless broadband service in the Philippines?

Narzal: *The demand for more content, aided by social networking sites, will drive that market in the upward direction. People will continue to communicate and generate content which are the key ingredients for turning an infrastructure into a necessity.*

Gall: *Its accessibility and affordability. Imagine bringing your SmartBro wherever you are even in your vacation. That is power! With the help of mobile broadband, our communications will continue to evolve to bring about a true digital society.*

What can the public expect from the partnership between Smart and Ericsson in the future? [Smart has tapped Ericsson to supply 10,000 common core packet data network and radio access network in the Philippines]

Narzal: *Smart and Ericsson are both leaders in their respective markets. Smart is the #1 telecom services provider and SmartBro is the #1 wireless broadband, too. Ericsson is the #1 provider of telecom infrastructure. So people can only expect more innovation and better service as we continuously improve our respective products for the benefit of our loyal customers.*

Gall: *The public can expect better end user experience in terms of speed in accessing the Internet that means no more faster waiting for SmartBro users; wider wireless broadband coverage; and more innovative services and promotions. We are confident that our partnership with Smart and Smart-Bro will enable the people to enjoy the best mobile communications experience possible comparable to first world countries.*

Where do you see HSPA and Wimax going in the Philippines?

Narzal: *We have upgraded 3,000 of our 9,500 cellular base stations to HSPA 3.6G with another 3,000 to be upgraded by the end of the year. This deployment is one of the fastest in the world. We believe we can have blanket coverage in the country in three to four years time. So our SmartBro users can really connect to the Internet wherever they are, anytime of the day. We're also aiming to offer 10Mbps to our patrons before the year ends.*

Gall: *Since HSPA is a more versatile network than Wimax, I see a brighter future for the former at least today. By 2013, when the number of wireless broadband connections is estimated to reach more than 600 million, we estimate that HSPA will be the technology behind over 70 percent of mobile broadband connections. And here believe that Ericsson and SmartBro will be big players in this industry.*

Binalot's Dahon transforms village

By Marlar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN JUAN, LAGUNA—FILIPINO FARE wrapped in banana leaves is an appetizing image one company hopes to capitalize on. And while at it, that company also happens to provide a regular source of income for people in this town.

"Banana leaves are a staple in Binalot. It is our main packaging material," said Belinda Matos, commissary manager of food chain Binalot Fiesta Foods Inc.

In 2008, the company established its Dahon—Dangit at Hanapbuhay para sa Nayon—program, to ensure steady supply of banana leaves from a community here in Laguna, said Matos, who is also the program coordinator.

Built on trust

"Tired of the usual food chains," entrepreneurs Rommel Juan, Rolly Juan and Adrian Juan brought the concept of serving dishes in fresh banana leaves and decided to put up Binalot (wrapped) in 1996.

The company used to source its packing material from marketplaces until Typhoon "Milenyo" struck Luzon, which resulted in a shortage of banana leaves.

"We had to ship (leaves) from the Visayas and Mindanao then," Matos said, describing the huge costs of shipments. "It's dangerous for us to lose human lives (in) we would also lose our identity."

Desperate, company representatives went around Luzon in search for banana leaves. They found Bulilit Grief "by chance" in the sleepy village of Bubungkalan in Nagcarlan.

When Binalot's purchasing manager approached Oriel with an offer to become a supplier of banana leaves, Oriel was skeptical.

"I had doubts," Oriel said. "Many said (the representatives from Binalot) were just bluffing.

At first, though, Oriel was jobless and was described to be a "tambay" (bum).

"It needed several trips. Me, in the company, did not know them, but we had to trust that they could provide the volume of leaves we needed," Matos said.

Oriel later decided to trust the company, and he invited members of his family and some neighbors to collect the leaves for Binalot.

Under the Dahon program, 31 individuals were organized to harvest, cut and bundle the banana leaves for all 10 Binalot outlets.

Regular job

"It was a big help to our villagers, as many have naive jobless," barangay councilor Agnida Montemayor said.

People used to depend on the harvest of durians, bananas and coconut, but income was seasonal and erratic, he said.

The male villagers harvest the banana leaves and take them to Oriel's farmturned-gathering area in Bubungkalan.

The women will then cut them to size of plates and saucers.

Up to 300 pieces of banana leaf are bundled into one "buro," which are then transported to Binalot's central commissary in Muntinlupa (for a week).

Vedora Sison, 47, publishes calls her a living. But others also have no income, she will go to Oriel's home to cut banana leaves with a pair of scissors.

"I sometimes stay here until eight (p.m.) I don't get sleepy anyway," she said, enjoying the company of other women while they are all busy cutting leaves.

She said she needed the extra income to send her children to school.

"Some of us here earn as much as P600 (per batch of delivery), depending on how productive one is," said Gloria Gonzalez, 61, adding that they are paid P10 for every "buro" of cut banana leaves.

She said her income provides for her and husband's daily expenses.

"Instead of doing nothing at home, I'd rather come here and make use of my time

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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WHAT? Erika swanson rising you're done! "I think this interview."

Manny Pangilinan has a life!

'Ordinary Chinese food—that's what we have in the boardroom [in Hong Kong] while watching 'Eat Bulaga,' which is on delayed telecast'

By Pam Pastor

MANNY PANGILINAN IS A VERY busy man.

Last week, on his birthday, the Mediacorp chief flew to Apalit, Pampanga, his hometown, where he heard Mass, had breakfast and then greeted an elementary school computer lab donated by the PLDT Smart Foundation.

On the same day he flew back to Manila, closed the Manila Stock Exchange and attended a 150th-anniversary celebration at Xavier School (tasking to MSC Voyager to announce the launch of Cignal.

Cignal, Mediacorp's new digital and high-definition TV service, is something Pangilinan is very excited about.

"This marks a significant milestone for the Philippine TV industry. Cignal with its Cignal HD and Cignal Digital TV is the most aggressive initiative thus far to bring digital television to more Filipinos all over the country."

It goes without saying...Manny Pangilinan is a very important man.

What's funny is, despite the amount of attention and his share of the spotlight, people don't know a lot about him. You can trace his roots—his success story has been told and retold...but what do we really know about the man?

Google him and all you get are excerpts from his speeches. We get his ranking (the 39th richest man in the country), his investments, and stuff.

But what does he do for fun? Does he have a life?

Lifestyle spent a morning trying to discover more about Pangilinan. It wasn't enough.

When your name is Googled, nothing personal comes up. It's always your speech-es or schools.

But they're nice speeches to read, in fact!

They are. But is that a conscious effort—are you really a very private person?

Yeah.

But will you answer our questions?

Depends.

MANNY C2

The Digital Life

How Technology Figures In The Lives of These Young and Busy Executives

By Bob Magkajas

Today's technology is changing the way people run their businesses and their personal lives in more ways than one.

High speed mobile Internet, for one, has brought forth a new breed of young executives whose work and personal lives have inevitably been tied up with the latest gadgets technology has to offer today.

Innovation on wireless connectivity continue to allow these busy individuals to spend less time in the office while still getting work still accomplished without hitch and more time with their families and loved ones.

Products like SmartBro, with speed of up to 14 Mbps and the clearest and most stable connection, there's no reason not to have an office-on-the-go, while enjoying life's best gifts in the fullest.

"As a working wife and being a mom to two very young, active kids, I am on my toes the whole day, trying to make sure everything is going smooth not just in the company, but knowing that my entire family is okay as well," said Arlene Natal, Group Head for Marketing of Smart Communications.

With her hectic schedule, Natal said she's aware with the certainty that she's able to keep tabs on her children, such as when she receives updates that her son's homework is done or sends an e-mail from her daughter's ballet instructor about her child's progress.

Thanks to her personal gadgets... a Mac, an external Passport drive, and a SmartBro plug-it, everything gets easier to handle. "There's also my Blackberry Storm which I use for my everyday call, SMS, and mobile Internet use."

"With a high speed mobile Internet connection, it's a lot easier to get in touch with my colleagues," she said.

"I also love keeping abreast with what my friends and loved ones are up to," Natal said, adding that she regularly checks and updates her accounts in Friendster, Multiply and Blogspot. "I update my Facebook as a daily basis and checks out what my friends are up to every single day."

She said, "With my HP Mini-note and Smart Bro, I am able to realize my dream of having a personal assistant. They cater to my connectivity needs while on-the-go. They're definitely my best travel companions."

Truly, with a high speed mobile Internet that's ready to provide seamless Internet connection wherever their busy schedules may take them, managing their hectic work and active personal lives has never been this exciting.

VILLANUEVA: Business without the power of mobile Internet technology is hard to imagine

HIGH speed mobile Internet connection helps Mark Kung-in touch with colleagues and check on her children, too

MOBILE Internet brought convenience, accessibility and flexibility to how he runs his business says Santos

When it comes to social networking sites, this father of two only has Facebook, which he checks "almost daily" when he's not so busy with work.

Though he spends time with his gadgets throughout the day, he uses cassette to the Internet at home.

Another busy executive on-the-go, like Villanueva and Natal, is Mark Gamboa, Kanguy Kaution's Marketing Manager.

"For work's sake, I need to be always on the move to explore new things and get updated with what's 'in' and 'more' everyday," Gamboa said.

"Mobile Internet brought convenience, accessibility and flexibility like never before. Whether I am, I could do my research in a flash which reduces my workload. With its positive benefits, it's becoming to be an indispensable part of my everyday work life," he added.

Not to be left behind with the latest gadgets, Gamboa uses a Samsung mobile phone and a PSP. But his favorite remains to be his iPhone, which he uses to upload images on the web for executives almost on-the-go. "SmartBro is the only mobile Internet service device he needs so-far."

"I love it that SmartBro is now more affordable, while maintaining its top speed of 3 Mbps," the busy executive said further. So-said, "I especially think it's cool to have the new Prepaid Limited Edition U-KAP A MCAA designs, which you can also use to send SMS. Mobile Internet just keeps you on the fast lane."

Though Gamboa also has a Facebook account, it does not really eat up much of his time. "I sleep for 8 hours. But when I am awake, I use my mobile phone (with a SMS) nearly 60% of the time. I would spend 2 to 4 hours at my computer laptop. I would play PSP with my kids on weekends for at least an hour."

Much like Gamboa, Villanueva, and Natal, juggling time from a hectic schedule for work and personal life is an everyday thing for Jerry Dy, the market development manager of HP Philippines.

"In today's mobile workforce, businesses need to be more productive and efficient as we face a still challenging economy," Dy said. "More businesses require doing work on the road so Internet connection plays a very critical role in ensuring being connected anytime, all the time."

With his HP 2540 Pocket PC and his HP Tablet PC and the high speed mobile Internet connection from SmartBro, checking his email and accessing information on the web, which is "key to my everyday decision-making process," is a breeze.

Though a hectic schedule at work keeps him busy, Dy still finds time to maintain his accounts in Facebook, Friendster, Multiply and Blogspot. "I update my Facebook as a daily basis and checks out what my friends are up to every single day."

Dy said, "With my HP Notebooks and Smart Bro, I am able to realize my dream of having a personal assistant. They cater to my connectivity needs while on-the-go. They're definitely my best travel companions."

Truly, with a high speed mobile Internet that's ready to provide seamless Internet connection wherever their busy schedules may take them, managing their hectic work and active personal lives has never been this exciting.

DATABASES become more productive and efficient with today's mobile workforce, says Dy

Manny Pangilinan has a life!

ORLANDO Vea, president, Mediacorp; Miguel Escaler, president and CEO, Smart Communications; Manny Pangilinan; Boots Fernandez, managing director, Mediacorp; event hosts Paolo Bediones and Vicki Belo

Transcript C1

What drives you?

I actually use cobras (Laughs)

You mean very chronic and focused. Where does that come from?

I actually don't know. Maybe in the genes. I told Fr. Ben Nebres, if I see an issue or problem, you just need solutions. You can't allow it to remain unsolved. If you're capable of solving the problem and also helping others, why not?

It is why it's a negative motivation. There are cases when you want to do things in a positive way because it will do good. Just talking about basketball—that's a good example. Ben Nebres's good intentions. We want them to be better teachers so we do whatever we can to make them better, including training abroad so the team will get better.

San Beda will be a university?

Well, I think that's the plan.

What happens when Arenas and San Beda are both in the UAAP which team will you root for?

(Laughs) Both.

That's hard.

If you attend a San Beda game, the bulk of the audience are Bedans and they're a UAAP-type crowd. The team is UAAP-structured. The crowd, the cheering, is UAAP-inspired.

Do you feel you're changing lives?

No, I think so.

Hope?

Hopefully for the better. It's a continuing process.

What's one thing people will be surprised to learn about you?

I make mistakes. Yikes, I'm revered.

What legacy do you want to leave?

This may sound a little strange. Let me see answer this question directly. I'm always been wondering what happens after life. You will likely continue in a spirit—but what would you do?

Build a telecom in heaven?

(Laughs) Do you have the option of actually building something yourself? Remember, the concept is that after you die you're supposed to live for eternity. How has an notion of eternity while on earth. You might have an idea but think of it—eternity has no beginning and no end. So maybe after you die, you may spend the first 10 million years of life traveling around the universe. But then after 10 million years, what do you do? If you have the option of relinquishing yourself, say by plunging into a black hole, do you have that option to say, 'Look, I'm done?'

And if you do, will you do that?

Probably. Is that odd?

It is but it's also interesting.

Because some of us must deal with these themes or issues you're gonna have to deal with that apart from preparing yourself for the good Lord... I think given access. Do you believe that?

Both.

And *why* don't they go where they're supposed to go? Why are they here?

Unfinished business.

But what can you finish? If you're a spirit? What do they do? Do they have the option to say, look, I may go to heaven or to hell but can I stay here for a while?

Apart from looking over their loved ones, what do they do? I believe that life, and even death, should be a slow progression of letting those souls that you hopefully become closer to God. In life, at least in some aspects, we could be better and better and hopefully be closer to Him.

But life, how do you do that? Do you stay here on earth or wherever to help out your loved ones? If that's the case, why is there still so much evil? In a quick, what things can you do to do good so you can get closer to Him? You have eternity to do it, obviously (Laughs)

What's the smartest thing people have said about you?

A lot.

Like what?

(Pause) I don't know.

Intelligent it cannot you?

Wah, sometimes. Sometimes it hurts.

But do you pay attention?

Of course. In varying degrees. It depends on what's said and who said it. To express it in business terms. Especially if you're invested in your environment, you have to be sensitive to what others think about you.

What are your biggest passions aside from business?

Sports, I guess. I take it seriously, not my corporate social responsibility.

How has money changed you?

It has made life more comfortable. Second, I think I'm able to help a lot more people. I don't want to say that when you make more money, money becomes unimportant. I don't think so. It becomes more important. Because you are able to help a lot more people. You are able to lend a more comfortable life, at least naturally. But money can't really derive from life or for point where, because of greed or whatever, you damage people and become unable to other people. There are consequences.

Can you describe yourself in five words?

One, two, three, four, five. (Laughs) **Actually, I just want to go through life unnoticed**

Do you ever get tired?

Of course.

What do you do?

Get more tired. (Laughs) Hehe, just

> 'I don't want to say that when you make more money, money becomes unimportant. It becomes more important. Because you are able to help a lot more people'

pile and I hear it. Grease takes eh. Our life has been a life of assignment. You have problems, more responsibilities. You must accept them. What can you do? There are times when you want to say enough is enough but you know that doesn't really exist because a lot of things are riding on your shoulders and you can't turn your back. There were instances when I was very young, relaying stressful jobs. I was the youngest of my class. So I think in many years. I used to look after the pressures of my classmates. Every day I was supposed to put on the upper right corner of the blackboard who were absent the previous day (absthe day) were excused or un-excused. They were supposed to give me their letter of explanation, which I kept in order to report. (Laughs)

One day I was so tired and probably just fed up so I didn't put up the names. Then, Father Martinez, who was not a fan of mine, he would go to each classroom, stand at the door and check the list. Obviously, there was nothing there. He asked me, "Why are there no names?" I said, "Father, I didn't put it up." "Why?" "I didn't feel [like] it." "You come to my office." (Laughs) Always treated me like, di ba?

There are easy questions. What are your favorite TV shows? Do you get to watch TV?

Yeah, especially at night. At night when I get home late, usually—especially this season—I usually watch the replay then switch on to Bloomberg because that gives you an updated real-time monitoring of the financial market. Then there's Nat Geo and Discovery. And CNN and BBC, for me to find out what's happening around the world.

Weekdays are difficult because you're busy with meetings. For Sundays, while I have lunch at home, I would surf among three stations—one is "NBA" on Channel 2, "ESPN" on Channel 7, and Channel 13, yung Sunday "Fiesta," nakikiliting. Then I go to work at around 2 p.m.

On a Sunday?

On a Sunday. I sit here, precisely on this chair, open the TV at 4 o'clock and, assuming there is no "it will 'it' 'it', not between "The Heat" and "Showbiz Central" while working.

Do you have an active online life? What are your favorite websites?

Not really. I don't surf the Net too much. And those that I do are not gossip. (Laughs)

So you don't Google yourself?

No, no.

Are you on Facebook? There's a **Manny Pangilinan on Facebook.**

That's not me. I don't have any—both my Facebook, what's the other one?

Friendster. Do you like eating?

Not really.

Really?

You must watch what you eat. I love eating, but you must watch yourself.

What do you like to eat? Who cooks for you?

I have help—lately and lately.

What do they cook for you?

It's a whole range of recipes from my mom.

What's my favorite? Afritada.

And when you eat out, where do you like to go?

Usually I eat here as opinion. When I do, Greenbelt 5 because it's convenient. Subsequent at Serendra, or Abe, Rapangan Food. Usually after badminton on a Saturday.

Do you play badminton every Saturday? For how many hours?

I try to. Hours vary.

Do you like shopping?

Wah. It's OK, especially

Where in HK?

The malls. IFC Mall. It's right beside our office, Chater House, Landmark, Prince's Building, Mandarin House, sometimes Pacific Place.

What are your favorite brands?

For clothes, the whole range of Armani, Hugo Boss, Versace, mostly eh. Roberto Cavalli, Montana, Prada.

What's your favorite place in the whole world? And please don't say your office.

The bed, I suppose. Laughs) I have you stayed at Manila. Shall? They have really good beds and so I ordered that, give a full sense of pillows and comforters. Sleep eh. Only it's a little high. Mmm. yung bed.

How do you relax and have fun?

Sportswise. And reading.

What do you like to read?

Fiction and nonfiction.

What's the first person you call when you wake up?

Nobody. (Laughs) I look at my texts. That's the first thing I do. I look at my messages.

And who is your last phone call at night?

Nobody. Again, what I have to do is to sow, because I don't want to forget things. I make a list of things that need to be done the next day. I usually ask my secretary to sow me before they go to sleep about my schedule the next day because I have to be mentally prepared.

I also have to prepare my clothes, choosing ornate na rin. You must bring the relevant clothes.

What time do you normally sleep and what time do you wake up?

2 a.m. and 7:30 a.m.

If you only had P1,000 left in your pocket, what would you buy?

Starbucks. (Laughs)

That's a kind of Starbucks.

What do you mean, if you want to a dessert or something? Food, I suppose.

Do you still have unfulfilled dreams?

Of course.

What are they?

As you open a door, it just opens up new vistas. Like when we bought North Luzon Expressway, I hadn't originally thought—and I was wrong—that that would be a nice business, it makes profits and I assumed that the growth will come from the organic growth of traffic. But I was wrong. There's an opportunity to invest in all the ways to the North and acquisitions to connect the road between SLEX and TLEX. We are looking at investing in the South Luzon Expressway as well.

There are so many things that can be done in life. Which is why you wonder why the good Lord just gives you 80 years—men or less—in life.

Then you have 10 million after.

(Laughs) It's said that the universe was born 15 billion years ago. And the earth was born 4.5 billion years ago and yet here you are, as a man, living only for 80 years, if not less. Of course, you live as a spirit after. Why not give us a million years each, right? Think of how many championships we can have. (Laughs)

What are your cheap thrills?

Wahh. Let me see. For example, in HK, I don't go to fancy restaurants. The lunch it's usually a bowl of beef and some vast. For dinner, I just ask the butler to buy ordinary Chinese food. That's what we have in the boardroom while watching "Yan Relaps," which is on delayed telecast. Or sometimes when I'm in HK on a weekend, we just go to Causeway Bay. Eat, shopping lang.

How often are you in HK?

Depends on the week.

What do you never leave home without?

What are your essentials?

Apart from clothes, the cellphone.

Do you have just one line?

Two.

What's the smartest thing you've done?

I think this interview. (Laughs)

Palawan's first lady celebrates birthday on luxury liner

By Larry Lovino
Lunch Reader

THE WEATHER WAS MONSOON-WET, but the SS Palawan's 76-room luxury cruise ship was high and dry for the special birthday bash of Nora Reyes, the vivacious wife of Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes.

As darkness fell on the Rio Macapagal wharf behind Manila Hotel, SUV and sedan were ushering the 500-plus guests from the garrigkind onto a festive world of flowers, flowing champagne and buffet by Harana Room. There were two bands that played at one end of the ship, which had the pool and piano bar, while the main party on the stern reminded me of Ulysses's Kalinga Bar during its heyday.

Hostesses by Bell Hong, senses with pretty young things, congressmen, businessmen, and more rich and power than I could keep track of were in attendance.

Despite gusty winds, everyone had a grand time. The honoree was up all night dancing, jamming and making sure every one was seated and pickled to red or white wine.

Guests included Bajaui Fernando and wife Marides; designer Ruly Pastores; Mayor Marjo Reyes and Larry del Rosario.

After dinner and dancing, guests could repair into any of the five-class staterooms to cool their dancing shoes—or even type?

The ship was supposed to cruise around Manila Bay that night. But it was fatal. Indeed, which caused guests just fun because they were still coming and going well after midnight. Such a lovely memory by memory.

MR NOT Jackie and Whitey Reyes

GOV. JOEL and Nora Reyes

CLARA Espiritu

CHAIRMAN Bajaui and Mayor Marides Fernando

REP. TONY Alvarez and wife Melanie

MAYOR Marjo Reyes

RUTHY and Bobet Vera, Randy and Cecille Limpoc, Jac Tambunting

Nikki Linares, Chic Salud

LITA Aurelio, Gilda Grandi, Bobby Hernando, Hattie Herrera, Chloe Ramalo (seated) Marlin Tanjangco, Tina Bonnin, Hilda Ocampo

HEMICHU Concepcion, Pilang Tiongson, Mabel Abadia, Ollie Nuno

Fundraising dinner marks Bobby Novenario's birthday

BOBBY R. NOVENARIO RECENTLY hosted a dinner party to celebrate his birthday at the Rodeo Park pavilion in North Forbes Park.

The 220 guests were entertained by singers led by Bo Cervania, Philby Manzano and Che Ruppino, backed by a quintet of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra led by Maestro Rudel Colmenares. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Joel Sicho.

The sumptuous dinner included roast beef Cesar Brown, in by Bobby's family from the USA, turkey, lechon, prawns, tanigue, pasta and arugula goat cheese salad with French onion soup. Arlene Arce catered for the dinner while Mila Hizon prepared the roast stuffed turkey and Angus in mushroom sauce. Desserts like Walnut Sans Rival, Torte de Maldol and Maja Noubas were prepared by Mila Hizon, Bobi Liu, Rose Lopez and Baby Tolo. The whole pavilion was decorated by Jenny Pineda. Ramon Bautar decorated the tables with burgundy silk runner and flowers in all shades of red. Cruzan of St. Benedict from Ofie Barte and Marilyn Yambao were beautifully boxed, wrapped and ribboned by Betty Quisumbing.

Some of the guests from the US included close friend Alex Pineda, nephew Carlo Kintanar and sister Christine Kintanar. From Subic came Nena Tarroza and Nancy Fernandez. In lieu of gifts, Bobby's guests donated to the reminiscios of the new building of the Order of Malta, Philippines.

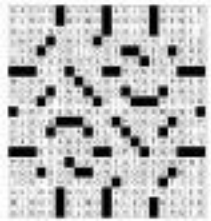
FR. MELVIN Castro, Lucky Sevara, Bobby Dino Nebuya, Alex Carreon, Teresa Lavares, Jessica Fernandez Hizon, Baroness Carles and Lito Zaldua, Ambassador Nida Vera, Ambassador Mirap Tuason

CHING Mendiola, Raul Concepcion, Criselda Lorredo

DR. LEA Epanto, Jesse Tarroza, Fe Rodriguez

TINA Quirino, Dr. Vera Gomez, Vicky Cuesa, Bobby, Jackie Cuesa, Jose Mari Chan (seated) Connie Gomez, Nena Tarroza, Mary Ann Cruz

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



Should he leave his family for a girlfriend with cancer?

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

I met this girl when we were teens. I care deeply for her but we are now living in separate countries. But each time we meet, we make love for old times' sake.

It breaks my heart whenever we part ways but it's an unspoken agreement between us. I know she loves me and I feel the same for her.

Recently, she's been diagnosed with cancer and I want to be with her more than ever. My wife will not understand, of course, but I want to live life without regrets now that we're in our early 50s.

Is working my personal happiness more important than my family? She is separated and we're both established financially. She is not asking me to leave my family. It's my choice. That's what I admire the most about her: compassed, no drama, no demands.

SAME WITHHELD

Who will will understand you leaving her so you can take care of a girlfriend?

Relationships are not revolving doors. It's either you are in or you are out. There is no "in...but."

Being a family man, it is a given that you have to sacrifice your own happiness for the sake of your family's, but when that happens, there's just going to be unhappiness and bitterness all around.

How do you plan to go about it? Ask your wife for a legal separation or secure a hasty divorce perhaps, depending on which continent you are living in. Will she give it to you without splitting hairs? Has she known about the other woman all along or is this going to come as a surprise to her? Can she handle it without having a stroke? How about your kids? Can you manage an extramarital relationship with them?

No one can blame you really for feeling the way you feel. We all fall madly in love once upon our lives, and then—just as fast—fall out of it.

Subsequently, is something as dramatic as a flash of lightning or as inconsequential as a flick of an eyelash, the sickeningly sweet nausea of that love can come flooding back like it never left, and there's nothing you can do about it. You become a slave to it, succumb to its wiles, and just like a cork bobbing to the ocean, throw your fate to the wind.

To be honest, if I don't have extremely candid about her. Enjoy the remaining moments of her life, be it a few months or a few years. Just be mindful and be truly sure of what you want for. There could be no comebacks here.

Send your e-mail to emilyadd@gmail.com, Subject: (Emily.)

Novena to St. Philomena starts Aug. 2

DUMAS BISHOP HONESTO OCHOCO, who has a special affection for Virgin Martyr St. Philomena, will start the nine-day novena Masses in the saint on Aug. 2, 5 p.m., at the Holy Redeemer Church in Blakar St., Mandaluyong, Quezon City, holds the church is the Sanctuario de Santa Philomena.

This is the third year that I will attend the novena Masses as the suggestion of Dina Reyes of the Universal Living Rosary Association as my way of thanking the saint for all the favors I have received.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barcia

Fr. Jun Elvira Orocio, parish priest, and the Living Rosary are inviting everyone to attend the novena Masses on Aug. 2-10 which will be celebrated by bishops from 6 to 7 p.m. and 8 to 9 p.m. on Sundays. Mass celebrants are Bishop Oscar Cruz (Aug. 2); Talitek Bishop Prudencio Andaya, Jr. (Aug. 3); Bontoc-Lagawe Bishop Rodolfo Beltran (Aug. 4); Dagupan Bishop Joseph Nacu (Aug. 5); Infanta Bishop Bernardo Tito Tirona (Aug. 6); Tuguegarao Bishop Diosdado Mamerto Gutierrez (Aug. 7); Malolos Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez (Aug. 8); and Palo Archbishop Pascual Pedro Pabus (Aug. 9). On Aug. 9, there will be a procession at 5:30 p.m.

On Aug. 10, four day Masses are at 6 a.m., 9 a.m., 4 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. Celebrants are Msgr. Sabino Vengco, Jr. (6 a.m.), Fr. Eli Mina, OSJ (9 a.m.); Fr. Gerardo Aurea, OSJ (4 p.m.); and Fr. Michael Joe Dermido (6:30 p.m.). Fr. Pe Aurora and Fr. Dermido are the spiritual directors of the Universal Living Rosary Association of St. Philomena with address at 408 Mayon Street, Quezon City.

The highlight of the finale is the 12 noon Mass by Immaculate Bishop Arturo M. Bastes. Live coverage by Radio Veritas 846AM (Ch 10) Mo AM band. There will be unveiling of the Holy Oil and resurrection of the Holy Relic of St. Philomena after each Mass. Text 09165-547-8605 or call 365-2011.

Help continues

Despite the economic recession, Linda Ricardo, president of the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF), confirms that contributions from the private sector has reached P4.13 billion in 2008 as compared to P3.9 billion in 2007. Majority of the investments have been poured into environment and sustainable development projects, especially in education, microfinance and livelihood. There are 75 foundations composing the league.

Ampalo, who is also executive director of education in the ABS Foundation, told me that they have been assisting 8000 college scholars. Attending the recent CSR Expo 2009 at SMX Convention Center inside are owners of how many groups are helping improve the lives of the less fortunate.

Dulce Perlas Reyfeg public affairs and media consultant of the Lopez Group Foundation, told me that their foundation coordinates and synergizes CSR initiatives of the nine foundations and 20 companies of the Lopez Group.

Books needed

Lolit Tiao, a doctor of education, helps Cardona Elementary School in Talim Island where books are needed. The Lakambini Foundation which she heads gives books and reference materials, hands out school bags to top 10 pupils per grade. Sometimes, they bring goodies. This is done by taking a small bond from the town prayer and sell for 45 minutes in the plaza. So if you have books to spare, text 0917-813-7410.

Project "Read Mo, Tulong Ko" helps the Los Huertas Elementary School in Pantabaco. The foundation gives an allowance of P400 a month per schooler. At least 40 students have been helped with their schooling. Other officers are Lily Reinoso, vice president; Cora Pomales, secretary-treasurer; Emma Carag, auditor; and Marivel Rodriguez, PRO.

Adopt a seminarian

The Postulants Healers of Mary Community (now has 12 theologians) and eight Philosophy students. Fr. Lorenzo Abarca, III-BE, review, is launching the Adopt a seminarian project on Aug. 15 to support the monthly board and lodging of seminarians. To help, write to Rev. Fr. Lorenzo L. Abarca at Eucharistic Healers of Mary Formation House, 43 Morning Star Drive, Sunville Subdivision, Cubao, Quezon City or text Fr. Marlo at 0907 4032811 or call 3924980.

Healing Mass

Fr. Nelson Garcia, OSJ, will hold a healing Mass on July 25, 7 p.m. at the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Batch City Homes, Biñan, Laguna. The public is invited.

LAGAMBAYAN Foundation Inc. headed by Dr. Lolit G. Tiao (third from right) donates books and other learning materials to the Nalusan, Cardona Elementary School on Talim Islands. With Lily Reinoso, Lakambini benefactor; Lily Reinoso, VP; Cora Pomales, secretary; Lind Emma Carag, auditor

ST. PHILOMENA

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL STORY IS ONE WHERE WE ALL BECOME HEALTHY

HONG KONG
SUMMER SPECTACULAR
Jun 29-Aug 31, 2009

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Fly to Hong Kong via Cebu Pacific from June 29 to August 31, 2009 and enjoy the Hong Kong Summer Spectacular. Hong Kong with Stitch this summer in Hong Kong Disneyland! Stitch is inviting all his friends including Mr. Incredible, Goofy, Ariel, Genie and you, to the ultimate, playful Stitch's Summer Dance Bash! Enjoy spectacular dining offers during the Hong Kong Food and Wine Year.

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20/2N HKG Package with Disneyland Tour
MNL/CRK – HKG – MNL/CRK
Php10,412
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- 2 nights accommodation in Kowloon side hotel
- One Day Hong Kong Disneyland Tour

Overnight Disneyland Package
MNL/CRK – HKG – MNL/CRK
Php13,083
- Lowest round trip Go Fare
- Overnight stay at Disney's Hollywood Hotel
- One Day Hong Kong Disneyland Tour
- Round trip Airport-Hotel/Disneyland Airport transfer

40/3N HKG Disneyland Package
MNL/CRK – HKG – MNL/CRK
Php20,378
- Lowest round trip Go Fare
- 2 nights accommodation at Kowloon side hotel
- 1 night accommodation at Disney's Hollywood Hotel
- Half day Hong Kong city tour
- Round trip Airport-Hotel/Disneyland Airport transfers
- One day Hong Kong Disneyland Tour

Cebu to Hong Kong Flight Packages:

20/2N HKG Package with Disneyland Tour
CEB – HKG – CEB
Php12,812
- Lowest round trip Go Fare
- 2 nights accommodation in Kowloon side hotel
- One Day Hong Kong Disneyland Tour

Overnight Disneyland Package
CEB – HKG – CEB
Php15,483
- Lowest round trip Go Fare
- Overnight stay at Disney's Hollywood Hotel
- One Day Hong Kong Disneyland Tour
- Round trip Airport-Hotel/Disneyland Airport transfer

40/3N HKG Disneyland Package
CEB – HKG – CEB
Php 22,778
- Lowest round trip Go Fare
- 2 nights accommodation at Kowloon side hotel
- 1 night accommodation at Disney's Hollywood Hotel
- Half day Hong Kong city tour
- Round trip Airport-Hotel/Disneyland Airport transfers
- One day Hong Kong Disneyland Tour

Book on line until December 31, 2009. Subject to availability and conditions of government taxes. Terms and Conditions apply. To avail, log on to Tickets at www.cebupacific.com or call (632) 702-0888 in Manila, (032) 230-3838 in Cebu and (082) 324-0500 in Davao or your nearest Cebu Pacific Ticketing Office in Visayas. Other Hong Kong and Disneyland packages are available in the travel agencies serving you.

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM
Disneyland

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Manny Pangilinan has a life! /C1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Empowered women and exciting artists

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

ManilaArt09 at the NBC Tent made me realize that the art scene is booming and that collectors are actively buying and investing in new artists

STORY ON PAGE D2

For the Baseco 'bakal' boys

Film turns into advocacy

EVEN WHEN he was studying at Ateneo Institute of Management, entrepreneur Albert Almendralejo already wanted to produce a full-length movie.

His ADP graduate thesis was "Strategic Directions for the Philippine Movie Industry." He believed that a new business model combining the best of mainstream and independent film making is needed for the Filipino film industry.

And so was born his full-length indie movie "Baseco Bakal Boys," about Baseco children who live and grow in the murky waters of Manila Bay to get pieces of metal they can sell for a living.

The film is a finalist in the Cinemalaya Unique Features awards and will have its debut tonight at 6, at CCP Little Theater. Veteran actress Gina Pareno heads the cast, which includes real kids from Baseco. Rahman Jesse is director and screenplay writer; he also wrote the award-winning films "Tuhaw," "Tirador" and "Nasaan Ka?"

Almendralejo admits that initially, aside from being a dream come true for him and his Ateneo Productions, he was looking at the movie as business venture.

He had no idea it would evolve into a full-blown advocacy for kids, with Unilever Philippines, General Kalinga, Manila Observatory of the Ateneo de Manila University, Asian Institute of Management and SOFI (Students in Free Enterprise) Philippines.

One of the objectives of the group, now known as the Cooperator's

FOR THE BASECO D2

ALBERT Almendralejo, Bessie Badillo, Rahman Jesse

For the Baseco 'bakal' boys

From page D1

Group, is to provide education to less privileged kids of Baseco through financial assistance, community development programs and services, from elementary to college.

"It was while doing the film that we really understood the plight of these Baseco boys, and it was a wake-up call for me that instead of just looking at the movie as business, it could be used as tool for transforming the community and a way to integrate all private sector efforts in this area," says Almendrala.

Almendralejo first made a name for himself as the man behind "Lovaphobia," the nationwide Valentine's Day public kissing event that made it on the Guinness Book of World Records.

ALBERT Almendralejo and Bessie Badilla with the Baseco kids

PDI chat with Trent Reznor causes buzz

Impress Entertainment's July 13 interview with Nine Inch Nails front man Trent Reznor, written by Pachabo Gaspar, generated quite a buzz online, mainly due to Reznor's harsh words for his colleagues in the music business.

Mailbig.Bcom.com and Music Industry Report were two major online music sites that highlighted Reznor's interviews. Most sites led off with the singer's provocative remarks. "Trent Reznor thinks Gene Simmons, Label CEOs," headlined Music Industry Report.

"I'd never want to be Gene Simmons, an old man who puts on makeup to entertain kids, like a clown going to work," said Reznor of the one-time Kiss front man and now reality show star.

As for music moguls and their business, "They're in their last moments of death and I'm happy to see them go 'cause they're all thieves and liars."

Reznor railed the music industry a "Mafia type run business" and hinted for a new arrangement "where the artist is more firmly represented and has a say and is compensated, and you're not paying for just the record label CEOs..."

Entertainment and music impresarios are in good company to go by Reznor's provocative targets. "When Trent Reznor drops your name in an interview, it usually isn't a good thing," notes TwentyFourSix.com. "In recent memory, Reznor has gone out of his way to bash Interscope, Timbaland, Chris Cornell, Steven Connor, Prince, and his former friend Marilyn Manson."

What's wrong with a simple look?

With today's competitive scenes and shining gloves spending more and more on cosmetic solutions, flash mistresses are like heartbreakers (celebrities) of design overload...some of them run-of-the-art theories, others simply complicated and arty.

Remember the iconic dress, fanning on the waiter tap or like typing or pass-no IQ tests...you name flip, we can design it for ya.

But that's not daunting compared to opening the door look. Believe it or not, there are women who have developed a "restroom phobia," afraid to be locked in. Or, if not locked in, one could spend a few more unwanted seconds trying to "find" one's way with the lock.

Why can't restaurateurs spend an more essential stuff (apart from food, the secret to you don't get dead and heaven extend every time you dine out), rather than the decorative? A good old simple lock...and waiter tap—will do.

Rain's not business-class

A young Filipino mother runs flying, (unsubsidized), with her baby and her prominent (occasional) investment uncles. The young mum and her baby were on business class, her mother on first class, using accumulated miles.

Since there were many empty seats in first class and the young mum didn't want her baby to disturb the sleeping businessclass passengers, the mother invited her young daughter and the baby to use her seat in first class to sleep. Of course they were turned away by the cabin attendants.

Things would have ended there...until the young mum saw the cabin staff let the wife of a Caucasian couple hop over, with the couple's baby, throw some they could, and see couldn't! Because they're foreigners!...the young mum thought. She would have raised a stink, but she just let it go. That's class outside of first class.

(Don't) Come as you are

Time was, you planned what to wear to a well-dressed event.

This was yesterday, obviously.

Today, women mull what costume job to have in preparation for a party. Take this young musician who couldn't decide up at this fashionable party without having her face tweaked. (Claim what part of the face.)

But then the invites didn't say come as you are.

WP1908 Complementing Hide S. Sasaki, VP for finance and treasurer Cir president and CEO Manuel G. Bocobo; chair Dr. Abraham F. Pascual; hon and CEO Manuel J. Sabaan, manufacturing plant VP and engineer Bobby Alconmed and Consumer Healthcare president Roderick A. Rivera. Secon FIBOD VP Virgilio R. Valentino; Pharex Health Corp. president and CEO Marcelo G. Agana; and VP for information and communications technolo Mabilangan

SONGBIRDS artist Sandra Faire-Ofeller and son with Sea Princess and Gallery Big owner Sarah Evangelista

METAL artist Mike Cacnio, Clinica Expressions Gallery owner Jerome Jimenez and Tess Cacnio

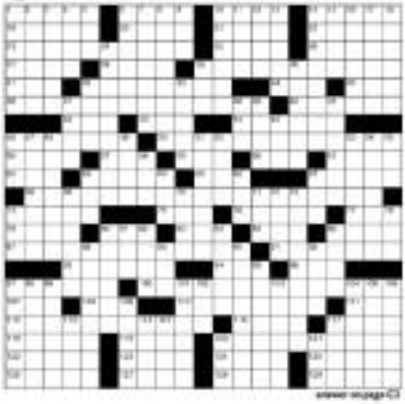
BART Guingona, Daniel and Monica dela Cruz

SECRETARY Rosario Ines Chuaye

LOT friends Tessa Romero and Nina Chico Sea Pedro, Sea Princess and glass artist Renee Ortiz

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD! By Frank A. Longo (A TASTED PLANT FOOD)



answer on page C3

Blue Harbour styles every man, every time

Blue Harbour Style Coast

FASCUEL Lab director Ma. Pascual Crescini; Zuellig Pharma COO Ray Acosta; PL Asia business development director Inez Bolinao; Pascuals plant director Vic Segovia; Zuellig Pharma business development co-ordinator Mercy Mallari; and Pascuals VP Cora Zamora

TESSA Prinsesa Valdes, Cory Quirino, Kat Luna-Alviarde, Chaye Cabal, Eric Alberto, Bandi Reilly

mpowered women
d exciting artists

...your calendar. Log on to www.singalong-philippines.com for play dates and season passes.

Treats for businesses

In the real world, women of substance are those that exemplify leadership qualities with a feminine touch. Smart Infinity's head, Julie Carvelho, is one stellar example. She has worked so hard on keeping her subscribers loyal and satisfied and honorably set the bar on premium cellular service.

Over on the PLDT side, vice president for SME Group Kat Luna-Alviarde is another determined lady who moves her department in full throttle.

At the PLDT SME Institute's Negosyo Center launched recently at the NBC Tent, top entrepreneurs from the nation were introduced to the newest offerings of PLDT-SME Platinum for small- and medium-scale businesses.

Negosyo Hunt conveniently bundles broadband connectivity and business-enabling hardware devices such as notebooks and printers into one package, thus enabling SMEs to be more competitive.

The right companies and Internet resources can be crucial for small- and medium-size entrepreneurs, as the growth of their businesses is at stake. It's a must for them to embrace information technology and use it to their advantage and this is where PLDT-SME Platinum can make a big difference.

Among all the activities for the night, the electronic raffle of P100,000, sponsored by birthday celebrant Manny Pangilinan, was among the most anticipated. The lucky guest was Ramona Mapa, a franchisee of Pancake House.

Filling the venue were different SME's who partnered with PLDT-SME Nation's Negosyo Boot Launch, also there to showcase their products and businesses were Aquabest, Smaller, Dutch Mahdlers, Brothers Burger, Zapps, Bones and Pizza, Il Lupo's Chimineas, Silverworks, Hot Lix, Hayes Haircutters, Bell Coffee, Fenders Corners, YSA, Tomoni's Thai Massage, Bibingkalicious, Print-C and Mister Donut. Each of these businesses also sponsored a subsidize for a prize as part of their corporate social efforts.

PLDT-SME Nation Business Area Head Carla Tabuena and PLDT vice president Perina Garcia

PLDT-SME nation community consultancy head Gabby Cuisaet Regina Tabuena

PLDT-SME nation vice president and head Kat Luna-Alviarde, grand prize winner Ramona Mapa and PLDT Senior VP Eric Alberto

Health and pharmacy

In the pharmaceutical world, women also play a key role. My vitamin supplier friend, Marci Pascual-Lacuesta, heads Health Express of Pascualdo-Gotesco wellness; she sought homegrown natural plants and herbs. She has a vast knowledge of Indian medicines that can aid recovery or relieve pains.

As part of the third generation of Pascuals, she was at the gathering at The Medellin mansion at the fort to welcome the new president of Pascualdo, Manolo Lozares. The agency of founders Lozardo & Lozares Dental will continue and the company's dedicated is providing the best health-care products at superior rates.

Taking over the reins of the all-Filipino pharma company that ranks among the top 15 in the country, Manolo was introduced to the business and media community. The occasion also marked the send-off and appreciation for the 20 years of service rendered by outgoing president, Monny Salazar. Both "Manongs" were presented by Pascual-lab chair Dr. Abe Pascual.

TANGHALANG: Filipino board members Nida Gamboa, Maria Francesa Zenaida Yuvigco, Sec Princess Hoy, Holy Nicolas and Doreen Yuvieh TP's Jose Acerda (third from right) and Wanding Josef

ARTIST Lydia Velasco

PINAKA Gallery owner Rita Sarenas

ManilaArt09

In the art world, there is also women domination. Most of the gallery owners in ManilaArt09, the on-going exhibit at the NBC Tent, are women. Gallery 888 and Galleria owner Sarah Panagsinlan invited me to cut the ribbon of the event, which showcases the brightest artists in the contemporary art world.

I was so impressed with the original works and avant-garde themes of the art pieces and sculptures. I didn't realize that the art scene is booming and the art collectors are actively buying and investing in the newer artists.

Assistant Ganesh and National Artist Benedicto Cabrera were honored that evening, with the ribbon-cutting ceremonies headed by Health Secretary Francisco Duque and Mayor Fred Tinga. My cousin, artist Sandra Babiu-Gröller, is also exhibiting a work of hers.

While walking around, I saw sculptor Daniel de los Reyes, who told me he will have another one-man show next month. The last day of ManilaArt09 is today, so do drop by to enjoy the art and panorama our local artists and galleries.

E-mail the author at inquirer.eu@inquirer.com.ph

Arts Council marks its golden jubilee with Gala Filipina ball

CEBU CEBU

Janice Perowall

by Ayala Land's Aurora project in Lilo-an, Cebu. It will be held at Centro Español de Cebu, and all 300 seats are taken as of this writing. Members of the Cebu Consular Corps as well as officers and trustees of the Arts Council will their partners will be featured in the opening parade. The rest of the night is for ballroom dancing.

Mayors has other activities lined up for the jubilee, being in charge of two consecutive theater and literary arts. For theater, she'd like to present a Cebuano artwork, and she's following the trail of "Sugbo ng mga Bisaya," which is English translates as "Spoons of Life."

Arts Council founder Fr Aris Miñalucha and vice president Helen Ymbong, overall chair of the jubilee, are also tackling "Mint" by Rumiawarrior Bonifacio who's meant to be the 1930s before he became the governor of Cebu.

In it, the leading man has no singing part because Bonifacio wanted to it and he wouldn't even want to take the dreams.

The literary arm, Mayor has mapped out "Taboos 2010" in February which is National Month of the Arts. "Taboos," she explains, is "the Cebuano norms for sensibility, maybe in market goods, equivalent to the Greek agora."

Main activity will be the Philippine International Writers Festival of which she is the overall director. There will be workshops, symposia, book launchings and fun. The focus will be on writers of Visayas and Mindanao, to give them the recognition they deserve.

Awards will be presented to those deemed the best. Festivarea are being made which will result in a short list.

The project is under the aegis of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). Mayors was once the NCCA Central Visayas coordinator and secretary of the National Committee for Literary Arts.

Committee on arts

Mayors and Ruby Rueda are co-chairs of the Committee on Cebuano Language, Culture, and the Arts in the Province of Cebu. That is part of the Tourism and Heritage Council instituted by Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia.

The council has done research into the history of municipalities and cities with Cebu province, and organized numerous festivals. It has also revived the Dragon women for the best performers of traditional Cebuano Christmas carols.

Mayors is a popular cable TV personality. She has just wrapped up the third season of "Health-scope" on BCTV Channel 30. Also, she just completed the first season of "Ore Vets," featuring stories on cheese by Bis. The viewers have been very responsive.

There's a dash of humor when Mayors says she is the first and only lady elected to the board of the Kwang Meen Christian Association (KMKA). That must be quite a story for her to tell at meetings of the Cebu Rotal Women Club of which she is a past president.

Another aspect of Mayors has to do with journalism. She is the Lifestyle editor of the Freeman daily, founded in 1919 by the Gullas family. In it, she writes feature articles, publishes interviews, and does a crowd-column where she recounts personal insights and experiences.

She is a businesswoman, too, having the franchise for all Shakey's outlets in Cebu, and some of Greenking. She's planning to open Shakey's in Davao. In the business aspect, her sons are of great assistance. "Thus she can travel more, and spend precious time with her grandchildren.

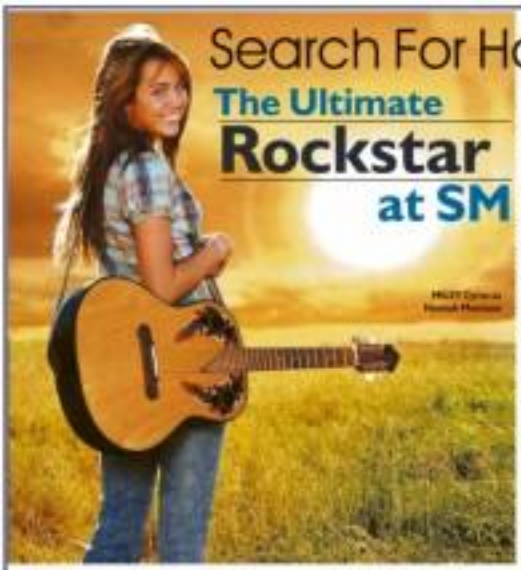
"I have regained my youth," she says. "I'm reading fairy tales, playing games, and jamming on all the good things I learned from my parents and grandparents."

AT CHATEAU: Ian Bong; Christine Maria, Mayor Augusto Tan with granddaughter Meg, Marissa and Irving Tan. Inset: Allen Arvin and Jennifer Tan; Chateau Maria and grandma Teresita Maria

MARLINER Augusto Tan with Mags Achilles Daisy, media liaison officer of the Archdiocese of Cebu who also celebrated his birthday recently

Search For Hannah Montana

The Ultimate Rockstar at SM



It's every young girl's dream to be like Hannah Montana. Ever since it debuted in 2006, the Emmy award nominated American television series on Disney Channel, which chronicles the adventures of Miley Stewart, an average teenage schoolgirl by day who becomes a famous pop star Hannah Montana by night, has inspired millions of young girls throughout the world.

Now, in time with the upcoming Hannah Montana The Movie girls can have the chance to sing and perform like their idol as the SM Department Store and Disney launch the Hannah Montana Search for the Ultimate Rockstar this July at the SM Department Stores and Supermalls nationwide. The contest is held in cooperation with SM Department Store, SM Supermalls, SM Cinema, Banco De Oro, Toy Kingdom, Cignal, and Magic 89.9.

The search is open to girls 5-12 years old and the Grand Prize winner will get the chance to win a trip to the US, P50,000 in SOG cash card, and TV appearances. Twelve finalists will receive SM Gift Certificates and prizes.

Every P1,000 purchase of Disney items, inclusive of HM apparels, at the SM Department Store's Children's or Pre Teens Wear department entitles one to join the contest.

A mini- Idolz audition will be held as the search tours the SM malls beginning with SM Southmall Muntinlupa on July 4, SM City Naga, SM City Tarlac, SM City Fairview and SM City Marikina-Sumulong. It will then proceed to the SM Manila and malls in Baguio, Sucat, Cdo. Mega, and Harrison Plaza, on July 5; and Manila, Lipa, and Davao on July 11.

The Rockstar search will then go to SM City North Edsa, The Block, SM City Batangas, SM City Cebu, SM City Rosales and SM City San Pablo on July 12; SM City Bicutan, SM City Lucena, SM City Bacoor, and SM City Bacolod and SM Cdo2 on July 18.

It will also make stops SM City Molino, SM City Cagayan de Oro, SM City Baliwag and SM Southmall Alabang on July 19; SM Megamall, SM City San Lazaro, SM City Pampanga and SM Delgado on July 25; and SM City Masinag, SM City Clark, SM City Dasmarinas and SM Makati on July 26. The Grand Finals will take place at the SM Mall of Asia on August 8, 2009.

HANNAH Montana Search for the Ultimate Popstar Beryl Rene Lopez

Criteria for judging are 30% for vocals, 20% for stage presence and professionalism, 20% for appearance, 10% for authentic movements and 10% for connection with the audience.

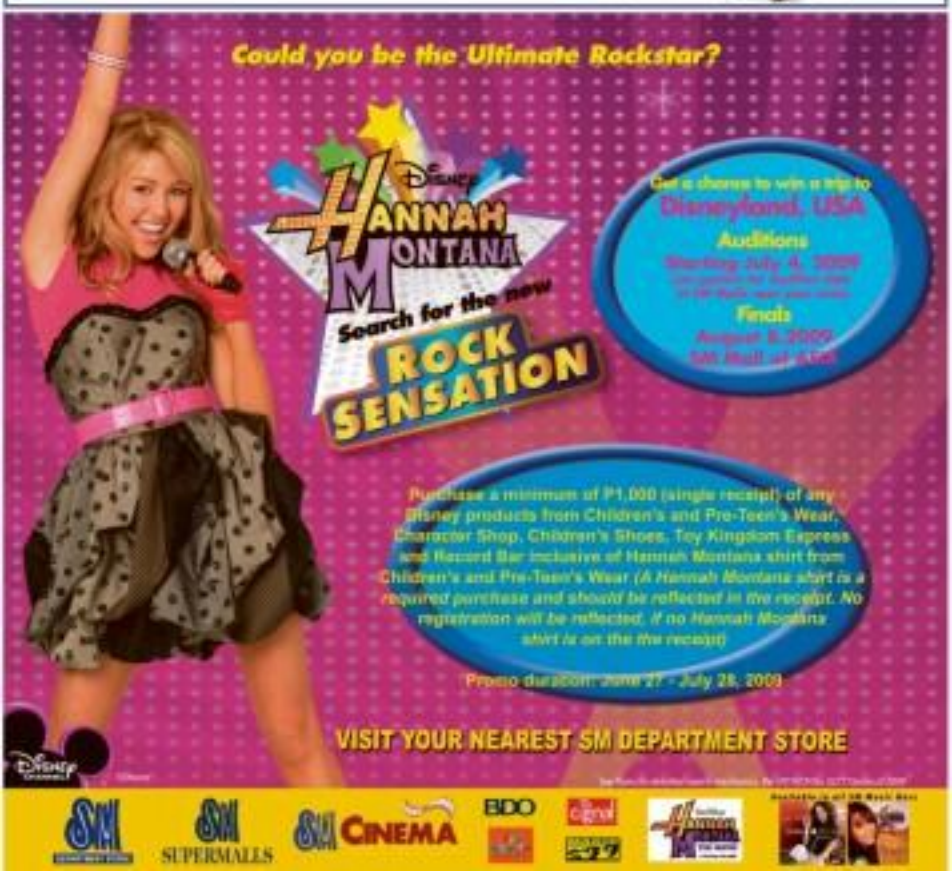
This is the second year that SM has spearheaded the search for the Ultimate Rockstar. Last year's contest was a success, drawing many contestants who dressed and performed like their idol Miley/Hannah Montana. It was a dream come true for last year's winner Beryl Rene Lopez, who sang the Best of Both Worlds and Rockstar tracks from Hannah Montana, who truly believes Miley/Hannah, considering her "a role model for kids my age."

This year, young girls like Beryl can make their dreams come true by joining the Hannah Montana Search for the Ultimate Rockstar at SM.

GIRLS can have a chance to be Rockstar like Hannah Montana with no-sacrifice promotion from the SM Department Store

YOUNG girls from ages 5-12 can have the chance to sing and perform the Idolz idols as the SM Department Store and Disney launch the Hannah Montana Search for the Ultimate Rockstar this July at the SM Department Stores and Supermalls nationwide

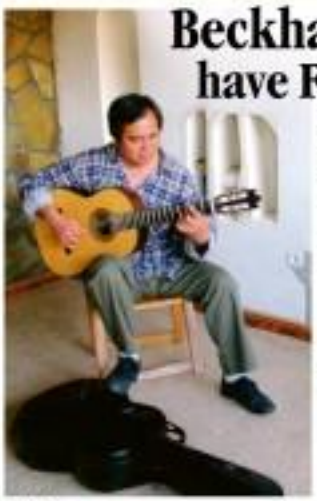
HANNAH Montana Search for Ultimate Rockstar grand prize winner will win a free trip to USA, P50,000 SOG cash card and TV appearances



Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Empowered women and exciting artists /D1

Beckham's kids have Filipino teacher



ADOLFO Tirnan

Flamenco guitarist makes waves in Madrid

By Bing M. Carballo
Contributor

IF ESTEEMED Filipino flamenco guitar player and maker Adolfo Tirnan could have his way, he'd come home and live in the Philippines.

But it is his love of guitar music and flamenco that keeps him in Spain. Here, he honors his craft and distills his art. He has been living in the outskirts of Madrid for 22 years now, where we have been invited to a barbecue visit in his home of 10 years in Barrio Villanueva de la Torre, Guadalajara, just outside the city.

"I wanted to be near Madrid but not in the city," he said.

The brick house he himself built and decorated to the manner rustic, dotted in the pinewoods of olive and pinetrees, is a few meters away from the city border.

In Madrid, he teaches guitar in the upscale British school Sanyngenie to the likes of David and Victoria Beckham's children.

He also performs in flamenco guitar concerts all over Spain, other European countries and the Philippines, and makes flamenco guitars with his luthier's or guitar builder's license.

His calendar is extremely busy but not busy enough to make him miss an annual homecoming in July or August to Manila and Cebu.

We first heard about him from Madrid reporter CherDe Lanbuin, who then set up this interview. Unwinding upon him with Brandy Richard Signey, Nathaniel Stone, new acquisitions Antonio Carino and Armando Herrera, we got more than we bargained for.

Not only did we get to shoot the breeze with him in comfortable surroundings, we also shared barbecue, sat down to a meal sumptuous because in his estate, and got a glimpse of his latest passion—collecting fine Lima watches.

To say that Tirnan opened up his house and home to us would not be far from the truth.

Mixed parentage

Adolfo Tirnan Toyoda was born in Okinawa of Filipino-Japanese parentage. At age 6, he moved with his family to the Philippines, where he was introduced to the guitar by an elder brother.

The young Tirnan was immediately drawn to the instrument. His youth was spent pursuing civil engineering at PEC while singing in hotel lounges, observing how guitar makers of Guitarhunters made guitars, and playing the guitar until he began to excel in it.

In time he became a respected concert guitar player, and went into guitar building when Guitarhunters closed shop. He opened his own.

By the time, he had married and set up home with his then love in Quezon City with his shop nearby. He had also gone into performing flamenco guitar numbers without the benefit of formal lessons, and had gone into learning to sight-read on his own. He had also started teaching young guitar enthusiasts.

Carnegie Hall

In 1985, one of Tirnan's guitar students, Ramon de la Cruz, was playing in Mandarin Hotel when a hotel guest, American actor Anthony Zerbe, took notice of him.

The actor ("The Omega Man" and James Bond's "License to Kill") complimented De la Cruz on his performance. De la Cruz answered that Zerbe should hear his teacher.

The actor, apparently a guitar enthusiast himself, asked to meet Tirnan. Impressed, he recruited Tirnan's music, which he brought back to the US.

"After a month, I got a letter inviting me to perform in a

BUSINESS SAILS E2

MELBOURNE'S LANES

Once upon a crime scene

By Angelina G. Gatoy
Contributor

LANES, ALLEYS AND BACK STREETS are a city's underside. It is where the homeless spend the night, where fugitives live in, where smuggling and stalking lurk, and into which visitors are advised not to stray.

Not in Melbourne. There tiled or cobblestoned pathways, tucked between buildings in the central business district, have emerged from their dark past and metamorphosed into cozy, funky, sometimes exclusive destinations for food, fashion, entertainment, art and artifacts.

Walking tours focus on the many different things to do in the lanes, like shopping, learning a bit of history and going bar or coffee shop-hopping.

Lanes still serve their primary purpose...as shortcuts between main streets. But pedestrians don't half-run in fear; they stroll safely, and about the only thing that could grab them is a unique shop display or snatches of conversation from the cafés lining both sides of the way.

Once popular only among Melbournians, the lanes were eventually discovered by savvy tourism-determined to experience local culture, if not track down inconspicuous exits. By the late 1990s, the city council had decided to bring the lanes into the spotlight and let visitors in on the locals' best-kept secrets.

My Melbournian friend herself didn't think to take me to the lanes during my earlier trips, presumably resting them off as another city to explore.

The first time Emmy Tagasa-Bevage took me to a café in a lane five years ago, it was upon the suggestion of her teenage daughter, a keen authority of sorts who has a discovery, in the form of a deck of cards, of Melbourne's "hidden bars." (The cards, an alternative tour guide promoted by the city council, give not only addresses but also directions—a must, as some of the bars are located at the end of an alley or have unmarked doors.)

Emmy took me, not to a bar, but a Japanese restaurant to compare as a better bet. Walking down Centaurus Lane was not unlike negotiating a Shinsaibashi side-street, offering a sense of adventure, minus the potholes and puddles of burnt gas to ruin the moment.

The awnings of opposite establishments met at the center, projecting pedestrians from the sun and the sudden, brief drizzle typical of "four seasons in a day" Melbourne was in for.

This tricky part was the trip to the toilet. Further down the lane, the series of cobbled and cluttered nooks broken by several unconspicuous...ah, an opening in the wall. A sign directed us to a short flight of stairs, then another, and after a quick turn, voilà! We might as well have sneaked into one of those "hidden bars."

Elusive entrance

"A defining characteristic of the bars, restaurants, boutiques, theaters in these lanes are their elusive entrances," says Emmy. "Many don't have signs...you have to know the address of the establishment."

In one of the cabaret shows she'd watched, she recalls, the entrance to the theater was an doorway, it was only a street number. "You enter then go down two flights of dark and dingy stairs before you come into a bright, deserted hall...usage as the front, drinks but at the back, and an announced, exuberant small crowd bobbing up."

It seems that the more hidden the place, she adds, the more appreciated it is for being exclusive to the locals. The suspects tourists feel a sense of accomplishment when they discover any of these secret places.

"In visitors like me, it's like being allowed into the pantry instead of simply being entertained in the living room. And in the pantry, guests are not dazzled by formalities. Once, in a lane café where diners were elbow to elbow, Emmy and I couldn't help reaching to grab at the next table. Well, the waiter didn't mind our "overshopping" and even clothed our resplendent.

Most of the lanes are popular for restaurants and bars. Emmy names a few: Hardware Lane and Bank Place are where business executives do lunch. Centenary Lane, Degraves Street and Centre Place, with their outsized cafés, are where younger customers go. Evenings in these places are exciting, provide a bit of entertainment. Brunetti Lane has a well-known jazz bar, and Little Collins Street has bars with hard techno music.

Some lanes have what Emmy calls "intriguing bars." She recalls a night out with her husband and a couple of visitors from Indonesia. "In one of the lanes, we found a bar that seemed to have just popped up in one of the building lobbies. Crates and unpainted chairs were strewn along the lane and people were just having conversations," she says.

As for the shops, those located in a lane usually specialize in either jewelry or clothes by young designers.

And then there are lanes that are a virtual gallery of graffiti and street art. Previously prohibited, graffiti writing has so proliferated just the same that the city council, conceding that it was impossible to eradicate, allowed it to remain some, mostly lanes.

Hosier Lane

The most well-known is Hosier Lane, where Emmy recently brought me and my fashion-sider daughter. Located just across the street from two Melbourne landmarks—the venerable Baroque-design Flinders Street Railway Station and the ultra-modern Federation Square—Hosier Lane is worlds away, where the walls seem to pulsate with blasts of color and bold stencil strokes. Even trash bins are covered with graffiti.

Here, illustrators and artists come together, much like in a commune, Emmy surmises. Also, there's an art gallery in one of the buildings.

"I think that Melbourne's hidden alleyways and lanes are a foil to Sydney's in-your-face grandeur, particularly the harbor area. Sydney's beauty is in he seen; Melbourne's charm and mystery are in be experienced," says Emmy. Take it from someone who knows the long and short (and wide and narrow) of Melbourne (koreophiles: Emmy authored a commissioned book about the metropolis' major freeways and how these were transconverted.)

Lanes were not part of the original grid design of the Melbourne CBD; they just emerged as the metropolis grew. In the 1990s the city council decided to use them as links in the grid, giving them a good scrubbing as well as proper lighting.

Business and tourism focused on the lane culture caught on.

Not all Melbournians are happy, though. One tour guide, after 11 years, stopped walking visitors through lanes where infamous murders had taken place because these crime scenes were soon to be bulldozed to make way for restaurants and art galleries along the way...they were not scary anymore.

AUTHOR'S NOTE. Erica Cortes, writes a graphic post by a mural graffiti in an alley next to a coffee shop.

The Australian city's once-infamous back streets have been transformed into lifestyle centers

BUSKERS as "impromptu bar"

WHERE in Melbourne, do as the locals do. Explore the lanes. Two of the most popular are Degraves and Centre Place.

Sugarbunnies

Popular and innovative Gaviu, known for creating staples in many-one's childhood such as Hello Kitty, My Melody, The Little Twin Stars and more, is happy to introduce the Sugarbunnies to the Philippine market.

The Sugarbunnies were created by Gaviu's owner, Hana Usa and her mom Usa and late sister who take delicious meals for people with special dreams and endless fantasies, when the results are rather a magical thing forever.

Hana Usa (yellow bunny), is a florist who is a good friend to the flowers and she makes each bouquet happy. She is known for her cute-as-a-button and freshness of her attitude.

Momo Usa (pink bunny), is also a florist and has great techniques for flower arrangements. She is known for her ribbon on her right ear and for being her mom's fashion leader.

Visit your nearest Gift Gate or Bench Fashion store to get your bunnies of the colored Sugarbunnies goodies. The collections are too cute to resist! From tote bags and back packs to coin purses and stationery goodies, earrings with sights of bunny shades of pink and other pastel colors!

So, come visit your favorite Gift Gate & Bench Surprise stores at the following locations: G/F SM Mega Mall, Ayala Surprise, SM Mega Mall A, Ilalo Station Ave., Timoha, Starmalls, Robinsons Ermita, SM Cebu, The Shops, Uptownville, SM North Edsa Annex and Alabang Town Center and Tia Town, Eastwood Mall.

Sunny Ilanta are exclusive distributor in the Philippines by Great Cities Sales and Licensing Incorporated Corporation. For inquiries please call 6352-0101.

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TOTE bag PHP 1495.75

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Halili-Cruz ballet dancers compete in Bangkok tilt

THE HALILI-CRUZ SCHOOL OF BALLET has been invited once again to represent the Philippines in the ongoing 11th Asia-Pacific Dance Competition in Bangkok, Thailand, which runs until July 25.

Integral to the ballet education of the HCSB is their active involvement and participation in international festivals, competitions and workshops. It is the belief of the school that learning is more effective when it is complemented with exposure, real life experiences and interaction with artists from other countries.

For the past nine years, the Halili-Cruz School of Ballet has consistently garnered top awards in the Bangkok competitions. For this year, the school is preparing 19 students for entry into different dance categories. Participants come from 16 dance schools and dance companies in China, Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, Singapore, Korea, India, Thailand and the Philippines.

The artistic team is composed of artistic director Shirley Halili-Cruz and ballet teachers Grace Custodio-Perez, Rona Tan-Arcilla-Reid and Sara Katherine Halili-Cruz. They choreographed 19 new pieces for the said competition.

ELLE Francia, Jaime Francisco, Angela Ednaco, Lolia Cura, Tana Herrenos, Tori Mist, Summer Maguire, Kelly Lee, Francis Castro, Nicole Ishmil, Lolia Tuazon, Kristin Tiam, Isabelle Sarmiel, Pia Leido, Krsha Cabuenas, Mysa Escaro and Jill Feliciano

Tagaytay hotel has eight themed rooms

A BOUTIQUE by Sir Jeremy's is the newest boutique hotel of Stanlow Development Corp. situated a few minutes away from Aguinaldo Highway in Brgy. Sicsic Ridge View, Tagaytay City.

Featuring modern architecture, it fronts to the breathtaking of Taal Lake.

It is the brainchild of David Gomez in a joint venture with Stanlow Development Corp. which owns the Alvarez's Boracay.

A Suites was put up in July 2008. Its name was inspired by the family's lucky number: eight.

The hotel has eight chocolate-themed rooms, a spacious lobby, dining area, seminar rooms, an infinity spa and a sprawling garden overlooking Taal Lake.

A Suites is located at Lot 7, Ridge View SubD., Brgy. Sicsic, Tagaytay City, Philippines. Call Manila office: 832 8527502; (02) 6376888/ 6922670/8066; Tagaytay office: (046) 4177846/ 4912165/ 94888.

Airline buys 6 MA60 aircraft

ZEST air president and chief executive officer Alfredo M. Yao recently signed an agreement for the delivery of additional six MA60 aircraft. The ceremony was held in Manila with Xi'an Aircraft International Corp. (XAIC) president Jiang Jiandon signing on behalf of the aircraft manufacturer.

The ceremony was attended by other top officials of XAIC, the People's Republic of China Embassy and Zest Air.

During the rite-tasks, Chinese Embassy counselor Wu Shengping and Jiang reassured Yao of the Chinese government and XAIC's full support for Zest Air's fleet expansion program to cater to their growing market.

Great Escape promo

I-MAM (MAS Airlines' Great Escape package tour—good for travel from Sept. 1 to Dec. 15—includes a round-trip economy class airfare, hotel accommodation, daily hotel breakfast, tour around Pearl Harbor and round-trip transfers.

For best rates, travelers are encouraged to make their booking and purchase tickets immediately. Ticketing is good until Aug. 7 only. Special rates are exclusive of fuel surcharges, government taxes, porterage and booking fees.

Call 9-101003 to 07.

ETIHAD PARTY

Etihad Airways recently hosted an appreciation cocktail party led by its president, James Hogan, for the travel industry and corporate clients at the Peninsula Manila Grand Ballroom. The airline also launched its new destinations worldwide. With Hogan are Joan Torres (2nd from left), Etihad country manager; Jefferson Chang, PhATCO director; and Lorrie's consul general and NAIATKE chairwoman Robert Lim (center).

Mactan resort in Condé Nast

THE MACTAN Boutique Resort in Mactan, Cebu makes it to the Condé Nast Traveler Magazine's 12th Annual Hot List. The 2009 hot list is made up of 140 hotels and 50 spas all over the world. For bookings and inquiries, call (32) 4863481 or (32) 3350351. E-mail reservations@allseasons-resort.com; visit www.allseasonsresort.com.

Discovery package

DISCOVERY Country Suites Tagaytay's two-night package (worth P10,000+, includes special treats for two such as breakfast at Restaurant Ivoirens and access to the wine and cheese spread during cocktail hour. This special offer is valid until Sept. 30. Call (046) 4134567 / (02) 6383833 or visit www.discoverycountry-suites.com. Discovery Country Suites is located at 388 Calamba Rd., San José, Tagaytay City.

All-day Jollibee treats for P49 and less!

There's no need to worry so much today's challenging times. At Jollibee, you still have all the reasons to turn meals into special occasions with delicious meals and treats for P49 or less that you and your family can enjoy any time of the day.

Delight in your Jollibee favorites priced P99 and below. Get your day going with a Yummy Breakfast or a Breakfast Steak Joy complete with garlic rice and egg, each for only P49, or the Pancake Sandwich Combo for only P44. For a quick, filling snack, enjoy a Jollibee Yum with Tuna, Carbonara and Cheesey for just P49. The Yum with Cheese and the Mega Jolly Crispy Fries will satisfy your cravings for just P45 each. The Jolly Hotdog Cheese, the Jolly Hotdog Chili Cheese Dog, the Jolly Hotdog Bacon Mushroom Topping and the Jollibee Tongue each go for only P42. Lastly, savor the Ice Cream Special for only P40.

Family bonding gets juicier with Jollibee Meal-for-sharers priced at P180 and below. For a complete one meal, get the Jollibee Meal-1-for Super Steak with Vegetables, 4-pc. Shanghai Rolls with Vegetables, or the Beef Strips with Vegetables, each for just P169. Top off your meal with Ice Cream for only P30. For meal lovers, get the 1-pc. Burger Steak with Mushroom Gravy and Rice and the 1-pc. Burger Steak a la Pobre with Rice for just P72 each. Indulge in a Baked Cheese or Rocky Road Sundae for only P35. A Pancake Breakfast Stack with choice of Maple-syrup can jumpstart your day for just P72. You can also get a Jollibee Tuna Pie (Solo) for P30.

It gets better as Jollibee offers treats for P39 and less. For even many days, enjoy the Creamy Macaroni Soup and La Paz Batchoy Soup for just P39. Wake up to perfect mornings with either a hot Chocolate or Brewed Coffee priced at P39. For all day snacking, there's the Fun Fundungan and regular Jolly Crispy Fries for just P39 each. Or have the Peach Mango Pie for only P22. Jollibee also offers a tempting dessert line-up with the Strictly Bibo Cookies & Cream or the Chocolate Sundae for P39, or a Jolly Anaconda Twist in chocolate or vanilla for only P15.

With these wide array of delicious treats go P49 and below, the fun times for the whole family at Jollibee just keeps getting better and better!

These Jollibee treats are also available for dine-in, take out and Jollibee Yuppies Delivery (8-7000).

Beckham's kids have Filipino teacher

From page E1

recital at Carnegie Hall. They paid for everything. I was treated very well and I'd love many other concerts in the US," he recalled.

The recital opened doors to other opportunities. He was invited to perform in the UK, at Lincoln Center, in San Francisco and in Los Angeles. In New York, he took lessons in flamenco guitar from a master guitar player, and was guest lecturer at the downtown Institute of Culture.

He ran, good only for one week, was extended to a year. Then he got an offer to go to Spain for a year on a special visa. Spain was the land of flamenco. He would get in study formally and learn to be a better solo artist.

The world was suddenly at his feet. He loved it there, sold his property in the Philippines, got his kids to come over, and settled in Spain.

Frustration

It seems so easy when retold, he said, but he were through hell. There were moments of frustration and sadness.

"Many times he sang utupo siya ang gitara ko, telling myself that this was not as easy things to do. This is more of a dedication, an obsession. Guess you're hooked. You don't know what will happen next. There are times you don't even eat at all. You do it because you love it. It's not like other professions that enable you to compute your earnings, and possibly make you rich. With this, you just don't know. It's dedication and hard, hard work."

Today, Timmy has learned to live his life to the fullest and to accept the forces he cannot control, like having two sons in Barcelona and Madrid with no interest in following in his footsteps. But the disappearance of the world's best guitar saved... the Brazilian Stan Wood, like the fact that he will have to be content with visits to the Philippines.

Why this fixation with flamenco?

"The beauty of flamenco is the guitar. No other instrument can better interpret flamenco music than the guitar. You can try playing it on the piano, but when you say flamenco, it is guitar. Because I love the guitar, I want to play the music specifically meant for the guitar. And this is flamenco."

Highlight

Today, it was time for the piano-ish to shine—Timmy playing the guitar for us. But if we had expected a few numbers, we were greatly mistaken.

He began with the handsome "Mandinda Me Kaya" and "Sa Ye-Lemang," then a medley of "One Step Sumba," and "Girl from Ipanema," the Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun," to "Flight of the Bumblebee."

Then followed the serious part. He did a number called "Recuerdos de la Alhambra" (Memories of Alhambra) composed by the near-blind Francisco Tarrega. Here, he demonstrated the famous tremolo guitar music he had invented.

Timmy is in Manila, preparing for shows in Cebu, Dumaguete and Batangas. The towering artist deserves to be heard in his homeland.

E-mail the author at billyear-Ad@yahoo.com

CLOSE TO 1000 WAYS

The BIGGEST International Singing Stars at the City

The biggest shopping experience. The biggest choices in food, fun and entertainment. Now, SM City North EDSA brings you some of the biggest names in the international music scene, all in one location. Catch these hottest acts this July and August, only at The City.

The Block

A new generation of Girl Power.

Get ready to get up and dance as the upcoming girl group -The Saturdays – fill The Block with their upbeat and unforgettable music.

On August 7 at 5:00pm, catch the gals as they fill the Atrium with their own brand of pop music. Bring the girls and the boys and get ready for an afternoon of fun and music.

The Saturdays press conference & live performance
August 7, Friday, 5:00pm
Atrium, The Block

The Biggest R&B Group

Boyz II Men, the group who's love ballads like "On Bended Knee" is gracing the Atrium stage on Friday, July 24, at 5:00pm. Meet and greet these R&B legends and hear them perform live! It happens at The Block this July.

Hail to the King of Pop

Last July 9-10, SM City North EDSA paid tribute to the Greatest Performer who ever lived, the King of Pop – Michael Jackson. At the Atrium of The Block, a show was created and cast of impersonators were asked to follow the moves of genius and composers of greatness. This was the first ever tribute held not only in the Philippines but in the whole of Asia. The event was co-created by Mac with choreography of signature moves from all of the King of Pop's greatest hits. Fans of the King of Pop from all over the country were there as well.

Since July 9, Mac has been [illegible] "Dangerous" [illegible] the King. It was a [illegible] the north.

*Dance to the [illegible]

SkyDome

Asia's Song Bird flies once more.

Be enchanted by the golden voice of Asia's Songbird, Ms. Regine Velasquez. This August, she takes the stage once more for a two-concert series on August 1 & 8, 8:00pm, at the SkyDome. Watch her sing her greatest hits, as well as songs from her new album "Love Key". This is a must not-miss event for all music lovers.

Regine... Most Requested
August 1 & 8, Saturday, 8:00pm
SkyDome

SM city north edsa

Editor Ermie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

Kris Aquino movie pulls out of MMFF

By Rayvi San Diego Jr.

THE KRIS AQUINO-STARrer "Bare na Nga" was pulled out of this December's Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) by its producer Star Cinema.

ABS-CBN's movie was...

Aquino's movie was one of eight entries in the 2006 edition of the annual event, which was dreamed by the fest's

MMFF F4

John Lloyd: Ruffa issue getting very tiresome

JOHN Lloyd Cruz

He says people keep looking for romantic angle

By Rhoderick R. Cruz

ACTOR JOHN Lloyd Cruz insisted he has no romantic relationship with fellow ABS-CBN artist Ruffa Gutierrez, but admitted that he "formally" met the actress-TV host's parents last month.

"It's sad that people keep adding a romantic angle to our friendship when there's really none," he told Inquirer Entertainment during the recent launch of Lucky 88 Pancit Canton, which he endorses with another actress, Iza Calzado.

Meet the parents

John Lloyd said it was Ruffa who arranged his dinner date with the actress' feisty mom Annabelle Rama, and dad Eddie Gutierrez. "She said this was so I could formally meet 'Ma Annabelle.' A lot has been written, mostly by people claiming that 'Ma Annabelle said this or that about me,' that before that dinner, the two of us haven't really met," he explained.

Annabelle and Ruffa reportedly had an argument over the rumor concerning John Lloyd that resulted in Ruffa's leaving the Gutierrez home in Mabini City Mirador and daughter Isabe recently patched things up.

John Lloyd said the dinner date was very "relaxed. We were all laughing. We had good food." The actor was with his mother Imelda Johnny Abrahim and Mahid Al Iwaisi.

"This is getting very tiresome. It's sad that many continue to make a big issue out of it. Yes, Ruffa said I went out a few times when we were in the US. Pretty much known about it. Pictures of us together even got published. But people leave the wrong interpretation of what they saw," he stressed.

At the press launch, John Lloyd was asked to comment on the rampant reaction of fans, especially those who support his on-screen pairing with Sarah, toward his rumored involvement with Ruffa. "I don't blame them. Issues about our personal lives do have an effect on our love team. But I always say that it's important to look at sides of the story first," he said.

Sarah is John Lloyd's co-star in the box-office hit movie "A Very Special Love" and its equally successful sequel "You Changed My Life."

John Lloyd said he is still convinced that his supporters are "thinking people." He added: "They have no problem separating on-screen pairings from real-life relationships. My team-up with Sarah may be successful, but fans know we each have our private lives."

He recalled that when he first admitted his relationship with ex-girlfriend, fashion magazine editor Jat Uy, he also read negative comments from followers of his on-screen partnership with Bea Alonzo.

"Grabe ang pangdadaan ni Lit. Sino ba ito, really fearful at times. There were a lot of bad things said about her on the Net," he said.

ROBIN Padilla with daughters Kylie (L) and Queenie

Queenie turns 18; Robin depressed

By Gerry Plaza
Correspondent

IT THERE'S ANYTHING that makes Robin Padilla sad and depressed, it's the realization that eldest daughter Queenie has turned 18.

Not only that. It's also the nagging feeling that she's "in love."

"Siguradu 'yan. Pero kumusgi ng kaloyoan na gusto niyang mahipag dun, ibig sabihin, pero I don't in love). Naiintindihan ang lang ako," Robin tells the reporter after the launch of Talk 'N' Text's "Tipid Text" campaign on Wednesday at the Manila Oriental Hotel.

Robin is the celebrity endorser of the mobile phone brand's controversial advocacy of inspiring individuals, organizations and communities to achieve success through ingenuity despite limited resources and financial hardship.

Asked who's courting Queenie, Robin replies: "Ang dami. Pero alone ko sya eh. Tini-stop akong ko nakichenglot pa doon."

Pressed on his movie details, Robin says, "Yung ito dinala, yung dito hindi. Ako, ayoko talaang mahihulo."

But he says it's not because he looks down on his fellow celebrities. "Ayoko lang dumaan ng emali ko kung anong dinaanan ng asawa ko (Liezl). Ang pero ayoko eh. Mahirap," he adds.

Robin pauses a bit and starts to a talented writer

ROBIN F5

Robin . . .

Pinatunayan Pa

kasile ba't hold-up—like he's so freaking special moments spent with Quentin.

He says he's now experiencing the most difficult part of his life as a father.

"I'm realizing that young wisdom ng pagpipiyansa-yo kanila na di kailangan ng away ang buong mundo. Parang masakit yun. Depression talaga yun na nafifelt. Yun ang nakaka-praning, pagnakaka. Yun ang isang bagay na hindi ko nalalanguyo. Bigla kaya ako nagkasakit, kaya nga depressed ako," Robin says.

Quentin spent her 10th birthday on July 17 without Isidore or a lavish debut party. When to remember is the sense of freedom that Robin gives her.

Like father

"Ano nang iisa ako, siyempre isang pinanghihinaw-hinayang mga desisyon ko eh. Kaya nasimulahan ko rin eh. Kinaw ba ng la mamamatay yun?" Robin notes.

He swears he won't meddle on Isidore's romance.

"Naggo? Isinh nga sinasabing, 'I want to talk to you,' hindi ako nanghihimasok," Robin says.

On her own

Quentin now lives separately from Robin in a house near his own place in Greenview Executive Village in Novaliches, Quezon City. He says he lets him to sell for "an architect" with his daughter whenever he wants to visit. "Hindi ko pwedeng hindo kasi, anak ko eh," he explains.

Yo to dates, but ...

Another facet of independence that Robin enjoys Quentin—who's also Muslim—is the freedom to go out on dates. But this, he qualifies, falls under certain conditions. "Strong ang, hindi pinapayagan ng Islam ang dating dating. Kung mangyayari man yun, dapat may kasamang iba," Robin stresses.

After wrapping up work on the GMA 7 series "Totoy Bato," Robin will move to Australia to be with wife Liezl, daughters Kylie and Ellen Zhen and son Ali—as the rainy day Quentin celebrates her birthday is to says she chose to stay here.

Robin says Quentin plans to stay in the country to pursue her college degree, aside from doing film and other personal projects.

"Plano niya mag-aral sa Australia siya mag-for college. Siguro gusto niyang sa Australia siya mag-for college. Ang sabi ko, kung saan ka mag-aaral, doon ako," Robin says.

Newscaster leaves wife for lady boss

From page F4

sked" band returns is now sweeping music from swinging bands with three to five members, aged 15-28, who must be enrolled in school for the duration of the competition.

This year's theme is "Hoong Sa Magiging Maggawadan Ko Ito!" Thirteen finalists will have the opportunity to be mentored by the country's top musicians.

The grand prize winner gets P250,000 cash and a record deal with Sony Music Philippines. For details, log on to rmn.ph/11.com.ph/soundblood.

New concert venue

Vim Productions is taking advantage of the opening of Skydome, a new concert venue at SM North Edsa, Quezon City. It has prepared a lineup of shows in the next few weeks, led by Regine Velasquez on Aug. 1 and 8.

Regine's gig will feature Ben Cuetillo, her former vocal coaching her amateur singing days, as special guest.

Stormy marriage ends

LONDON—Amy Winehouse's outrageous marriage ended Thursday when the singer and Blake Fielder-Civil were granted a divorce by a judge in London.

A judge read out the divorce decree citing both those of other estranged couples as it held Family Court hearing.

Neither Winehouse, 25, nor Fielder-Civil, 27, attended the hearing.

Winehouse married Fielder-Civil in Miami in 2007, but he was arrested six months later over an assault and torn to jail.

He filed for divorce earlier this year on the grounds of the royal divorce infidelity. AP

• • •

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in Hot tabloid headlines this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

Regine-Ogie saga

• Insulting Regine Velasquez-Ogie Alcasid income tax (Same song, Ryan Cayabyab, etc.)

• Bakit may tattoo ba, Ogie (if number Ang Regine (Don't)

Comparisons

• Carla Abellana may artista Aryan Ang Shaina Shawn.

• Ano may malaking summer si Marian Ang Angel Locsin.

Much ado

• Marlene Reyes problema po rin ng ABS-CBN.

• Mga dapat pa ang maalaman si Marian (Nahap?)

Wagging tongues

• Bulls Gutierrez-Juhn Lloyd Cruz in long hap-hin?

• Jolin Tsai, Cristine Reyes nahuli ang magki-date; na-disappoint na agad sa showbiz si Bulls?

Actors'

• Dingdong pala si Ryan Agoncillo kapag laging "pare, Andy Ann Santos lagkog hanggang ang hanuan (Sa ang sya)

• Kris Bernal, Aljur Abrenica nakitang sweet si Jodhan (Sa dahan-dahan.)

• Baron Geisler, Aljur muntik magkagulpi. (Yep)

• Toni Gonzaga napasubito sa him, pati bodyguard pa.

Impressions

• Sinakasak Shichelle hindi gusto ang sinabi.

• Si Bangi Jomalia muntik nang mapatay

AMY Winehouse and former husband Blake Fielder-Civil

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
THEATER MALL
1 2
PROMENADE
3 4 5

NOW ON ITS 2ND WEEK
MILEY CYRUS
HANNAH MONTANA
THE MOVIE

NAKAKA-ALIW, NAKAKA-BALIW, NAKAKA-INLOVE!
PELIKULA SA MGA NAGMAMAHAL AT GUSTONG LUMIGAYA!
RODERICK PAULATE CARMI MARTIN NOVA VILLA
MARILYN REYNES JOHN PRATS JON AVILA
JUDY ANN SANTOS and OGIE ALCASID
OH, MY Girl!
a laugh story...
OPENS IN THEATERS JULY 29
http://www.regalfilmmedia.net/ang

SHANG CINEPLEX
1) HARRY POTTER 11:30, 2:40, 5:00, 8:10
2) HARRY POTTER 10:50, 2:00, 5:10, 8:00
3) HARRY POTTER 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:10
4) HARRY POTTER 12:00, 3:15, 6:20, 9:40
ICE AGE 11:00, 2:00, 4:10
TRANSFORMERS 6:30, 9:30

POWER PLANT CINEMA
HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE - DP
HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE - DP
HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE - DP
HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE - DP
HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE - DP
HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE - DP

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
Walter Mart

SNEAK PREVIEWS TOMORROW
SANDRA BULLOCK RYAN REYNOLDS
THE PROPOSAL
HERE COMES THE BRIDE...
In Cinemas July 29

OPENS JULY 29
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ESTHER.
ORPHAN

McCartney performs where Beatles made US TV debut

NEW YORK—FORTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER The Beatles' American TV debut at the Ed Sullivan Theater, Paul McCartney got back... with a concert on top of the marquee.

McCartney put on an outdoor show atop the theater's marquee Wednesday with more than 2,000 people watching from the street. The performance was shown during the former Beatle's first appearance on CBS' "Late Show With David Letterman."

Scary

The Beatles' first stint on "The Ed Sullivan Show" was Feb. 9, 1964.

McCartney recalled that it was "kind of scary" when the Beatles performed on Sullivan's show.

However, he didn't acknowledge it during a later appearance when a fake manager asked "you nervous?"—when the curtain was about to be raised for McCartney to perform "Yesterday" alone without his bandmates.

"You should be," McCartney said the manager told him. "There's 73 million people watching."

Letterman said that his impression of the Beatles was that it was four guys on a long spring break, "acting a great fool. The Beatles visited Miami the first time they came to the United States.

"There was the beach and sand and girls and, come on!" McCartney quipped.

Letterman and McCartney talked about the ex-Beatle's friendship with the late Michael Jackson. The two men recorded the duet "The Girl is Mine" on Jackson's "Thriller" album.

McCartney advised Jackson to think about music publishing as an investment. Jackson bought the rights to many of the Beatles' songs, and McCartney's hopes of getting a better deal with the new owners were in vain.

'Lovely man'

"We kind of drifted apart after that," McCartney said. "But he was a lovely man, massively talented and we miss him."

McCartney opens a US tour Friday at Citi Field, the New York Mets stadium. Their previous home, Shea Stadium, was also where the Beatles performed for a mid-concert rooftop in 1965. AP

LAKEWOOD CINEMAS

THERE IS ONLY ONE THING WRONG WITH THE DAVIS BABY...

BASED ON LARRY COHEN'S CULT CLASSIC THRILLER

IT'S ALIVE

IT KICKS IT CRIES IT SCREAMS IT KILLS

R-13

CRAWLING INTO THEATRES JULY 22

NOW SHOWING

ALL AGES ADMITTED

★★★★

"THE MAGIC CONTINUES TO CAST ITS SPELL ENCHANTS FROM BEGINNING TO END."

Harry Potter

IMAX

OPENS JULY 22

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'THE NOTEBOOK'

AND BASED ON THE BEST-SELLING NOVEL BY JODI PICOULT

cameron diaz

my sister's keeper

Anna is not sick, but she might as well be. By age thirteen, she has undergone countless surgeries, transfusions, and shots so that her older sister, Kate, can somehow fight the leukemia that has plagued her since childhood. The product of preimplantation genetic diagnosis, Anna was conceived as a bone marrow match for Kate - a life and a role that she has never questioned... until now.

OPENS JULY 29

"A SPELLBINDING THRILLER"

Kate BECKINSALE

NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Kris ...

From page 1

overall chair Bryant Fernando to "the most star-studded to years."

Among the top draws participating in this year's fair are Sharon Cuneta, Vic Sotto, Manny Pacquiao, Bong Revilla, Marian Rivera, Willie Revillame and Ogie Alcasid.

In a letter dated July 13, Mahen N. Sanwo, Star Cinema managing director, told Fernando that Aquino "backed out from the project due to personal reasons."

Main reason

Sanwo furnished Fernando with Aquino's resignation letter from the project, also dated July 13, in which she cited the illness of her mother, Corazon Aquino, as the main reason behind her decision.

"My mother ... is presently confined in the hospital because of complications of her colon cancer. My family and I have consented to spend as much time as we can to be with her and attend to her needs," the younger Aquino said in her letter.

Replacement

In a meeting held on July 17, the festival's Screening Committee accepted Star Cinema's decision and recommended to the Executive Committee "to consider 'I Love You, Goodbye' as the replacement ... consistent with selection and screening rules."

Directed by Lucio Gallino and published by Augusto Panganiban, Derek Ramsay and Gabby Concepcion, "I Love You, Goodbye" is produced by Star Cinema as well.

'Heat in line'

Screening Committee chair John Bede explained that the festival's rules state that "should any of the eight selected film projects be disqualified or withdrawn, the replacement shall come from the entry next in line but subject to genre and/or lead star limitation."

In a letter dated July 17, Bede told Sanwo that the MMFF expects that, "if the Famous approves [the Screening Committee's] recommendation, Star Cinema is bound to produce the replacement [movie] in time for the film fest in December."

With this development, Sanwo and real-life partners Cinema and Concepcion will have film competing in the fest.

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MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 HARRY POTTER 6
2 HARRY POTTER 6
3 HARRY POTTER 6
4 HARRY POTTER 6
5 HARRY POTTER 6
6 ICE AGE 3: (DIGITAL 3D)
7 HANNAH MONTANA / HARRY POTTER 6
8 Indefilme: BRUTUS / HARRY POTTER 6
9 ICE AGE 3
10 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen

ERMITA

1 HARRY POTTER 6
2 HARRY POTTER 6
3 HARRY POTTER 6
4 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
5 HARRY POTTER 6
6 HARRY POTTER 6
7 ICE AGE 3

METRO EAST

1 HARRY POTTER 6
2 HARRY POTTER 6
3 HARRY POTTER 6
4 HARRY POTTER 6
5 ICE AGE 3: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS
6 HARRY POTTER 6
7 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
8 VILLA ESTRELLA

NOVALICHES

1 HARRY POTTER 6
2 ICE AGE 3: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS
3 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
4 HARRY POTTER 6

PIONEER

1 HARRY POTTER 6
2 HARRY POTTER 6
3 HARRY POTTER 6
4 HARRY POTTER 6

SNEAK PREVIEWS
July 20 and 21

MOVIEWORLD

Galleria • Manila • Metro East
Novaliches • Pioneer • Sta. Rosa
Imus • Dasmariñas • Angeles
Starmills • Tacloban

In theaters JULY 29

STA. ROSA

1 HARRY POTTER 6
2 HARRY POTTER 6
3 ICE AGE 3: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS
4 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen

LIPA

1 HARRY POTTER 6
2 HARRY POTTER 6
3 ICE AGE 3: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS
4 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen

DASMARINAS

1 ICE AGE 3: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS
2 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
3 HARRY POTTER 6
4 HARRY POTTER 6

IMUS

1 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
2 ICE AGE 3: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS
3 HARRY POTTER 6
4 HARRY POTTER 6

STARMILLS

1 ICE AGE 3 / HARRY POTTER 6
2 HARRY POTTER 6
3 VILLA ESTRELLA
4 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
5 HARRY POTTER 6
6 HARRY POTTER 6

ANGELES

1 HARRY POTTER 6
2 ICE AGE 3: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS
3 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
4 HARRY POTTER 6

TACLOBAN

1 ICE AGE 3 / HARRY POTTER 6
2 HARRY POTTER 6
3 VILLA ESTRELLA

BACOLOD

1 HARRY POTTER 6
2 HARRY POTTER 6
3 HARRY POTTER 6
4 ICE AGE 3: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS
5 VILLA ESTRELLA
6 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen

ILOILO

1 HARRY POTTER 6
2 HARRY POTTER 6
3 HARRY POTTER 6
4 ICE AGE 3: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS
5 TRANSFORMERS: Revenge of the Fallen
6 VILLA ESTRELLA

'Adventureland' stars enjoy good rapport onscreen

LOS ANGELES—JESSE EISENberg was recently quoted saying that since his "Adventureland" leading lady Kristen Stewart left the big leagues with her mega hit "Twilight," he's not allowed to talk to her anymore.

Of course, Jesse was just joking, including his talk of a relationship strife now that Kristen has legions of fans, thanks to her bloodsucker vampire fantasy film.

The actor was all praises for Kristen, who stands "Adventureland," which was directed by Greg Mottola of "Superbad" fame, before "Twilight."

It's the comedy-drama set in 1987. Jesse plays James, a virginal college graduate who is forced to work at his hometown amusement park so he can have money for graduate school. What appears to be a summer of drudgery at first becomes a memorable one when James saves park co-worker Em, played by Kristen, who goes to bowl her worst angst here on a piece of the "Twilight" sole.

'Overwhelmed'

Jesse and Kristen have a good rapport onscreen and there is a wonderful supporting cast: Ryan Reynolds, Martin Starr, Bill Hader, Ribisi, Wiig, Adam Scott, Matt Bush and Margarita Levieva. The '80s seemed like only yesterday and yet hasn't a film that's obviously creating that decade as a nostalgic era, complete with music from The Cure, Husker Du, Pixies and The Replacements.

"Kristen is just so incredible," the boyish, curly-haired Jesse said as is an interviewee in the floor because dead. "I was so overwhelmed for two reasons. One is she was only 17 when we made this movie. The other thing is that I was so surprised by how funny she is. We did a lot of improvisation. Greg was very encouraging. We did take takes where we could say whatever we wanted to say which was really nice."

The actor who appeared in the acclaimed Jeff Daniels-Laura Linney indie film "The Squid and the Whale" continued: "She's so wonderfully real and emotionally present. The comedy that I like is derived from something real. It was easy to play off Kristen. I was really lucky to start doing the movie because the relationship of my character and Kristen's is so intimate. If we're not on the same page, it could be disastrous. You have to be there for two months, having romantic is personally very awkward."

When asked if he and Kristen hung out together, this was the very dear opinion of: "It's such a weird thing to do in movie. So example, I did a movie in Georgia ('Zombieland'). Some of the actors were there. Georgia in the same way that some of the actors on 'Adventureland' were from Pittsburgh. So just by virtue of being in a new city together and being in the same apartment complex, you end up bonding in an unusually accelerated manner. So it was really nice. You'd work for 13 hours with everybody, then you'd go home and hang out together some more for an hour and then go to sleep. It's a wonderful concentrated experience."

"She's great," he added about Kristen. "There's that cliché of stereotype of actresses being high-strung. She's the opposite of that."

Mole

Of his own coming-of-age, the native New Yorker who grew up with a mole who worked as a clown and a college professor and said with a laugh, "It was a very difficult one ... I didn't fit in school or off so theater was an outlet for me. We lived about an hour away from New York City so when I was old enough to take the bus to New York, I would go to do plays and Broadway. A lot of it came from not fitting in in school and wanting an outlet. I still haven't graduated from college. My dad is a professor so he is very invested on the finishing school. I have a year left. They love it when I do a

"KRISTEN Stewart (above) is just so incredible," says "Adventureland" co-star Jesse Eisenberg (right).

movie like this, which I'm so proud of."

Aside from the comedy-horror "Zombieland," Jesse also stars in the crime drama "Holy Rollers," which supports once more the cliché that sometimes truth is literal truly stranger than fiction. Jesse explained: "It's a true story about a Hasidic Jew guy who becomes an Ecstasy drug dealer (laughter)—erst, he's got to make a living and it always riles that kind of response. But it's an extremely dramatic movie so I hope they disrupt the title. The title is 'Holy Rollers' because you're on a roll when you're on Ecstasy. It's a really great movie. It's a nice conversation on faith and the bonding bonds of the modern world and the Hasidic world. That it is based on a true story makes it pretty provocative."

Dressed to share more details about this truly interesting story

Jesse said: "At the time '90s, before 9/11 happened, airport security was not as heightened. They weren't checking some of those Hasidic Jews. They had black coats, hats and stuff on. These guys were carrying suitcases full of heroin. These kids come from each an insular world that they don't know what illegal drugs were. It was just a part of their lives. They thought they were carrying medicines for sick people and at the time, Ecstasy was legal in Holland. There were a lot of drugs coming from that part of the world."

'Major operation'

"They had this major operation. They weren't flying out of Amsterdam. They drove in Hasidic and then flew into Montreal where there was a sizeable Jewish population. Then they flew to New York. These guys who lived in Brooklyn were getting paid more money than they ever made in their textile jobs on the Lower East Side. It's an incredible story. I think they're all in various phases of prison terms now."

Pressed about looking virginal despite his age (he's 25), Jesse joked, "I've been with the same person for seven years. She wasn't born yet. I'm a long time ago if I was still a virgin."

E-mail the columnist at rmapes.1560@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Hapsite Report," on http://blogs.inquirer.net/tapsterreport.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Robert V. Arfuelles

Jonas Brothers in new comedy series

MUSIC AND COMEDY MERGE in "Jonas," a new series starring multiplatinum recording artists Kevin, Joe and Nick Jonas.

The series follows the fictional Lucas brothers through the unexpected, unpredictable and often absurd situations that confront the rock 'n' roll superstars as they try to live ordinary lives.

It premieres Aug. 9 at 9:30 p.m. on Disney Channel. Regular time slot after the premiere is 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Nickelodeon's ChinaToon

Nickelodeon presents Chinatoon, a one-hour block dedicated to Pan Asianism for

JOE Jonas and Nicole Anderson

kids from China.

The block includes the award-winning animated series "The Magic Wonderland" and the "Nursery Goat and Big Big Wolf." The episodes air Sundays at 12:30 p.m., with replays on weekdays at 5 p.m. and Saturdays at 12:30 p.m.

Airing Fridays at 5:30 p.m. is CGI animation "Nezumika," based on a highly welcomed picture book.

Heavyweight couples

It's twice the weight and twice the drama this month as "The Biggest Loser: Couples Edition" premieres on 2nd woman.

In this fifth season of the hit weight-loss reality competition, 13 heavyweight couples from across America will compete in a series of physical challenges for $250,000. The teams will have to endure a series of grueling tasks and emotionally exhausting encounters.

Hosting is actress Allison Sweeney while resident trainers are Bob Harper and Jillian Michaels. It airs Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on 2nd Avenue.

Newscaster leaves wife for lady boss

By the Entertainment staff

LADY BROADCASTER IS SAID to be the reason why Stranger Investments broke up with his wife.

Wang, 36, till in 1995 lives in the TV newsroom.

When Lil was embroiled in a major crisis recently. TV was buzzed from reporting on the news because he was deemed "too emotional" to fulfill his duties as an objective broadcast journalist.

Top Singer's paranoia

Talented Singer had a small show recently.

TV, however, sensed the traditional stare-and-greet and autograph session with their favorite of her entire fan base.

The official explanation was that TV has a string of concerts abroad and can't risk being quarantined at the airport.

In fact had to wait in front of an enclosed room where TV unexplored his CDs.

The longest minute

Talent manager Annabelle Ramos "almost" bumped into GMA 7 exec Wilma Galvante at the birthday party of Regal Films producer Ronelle Mendoza-de Ros-as Tuesday night.

Apparently, coordinators failed to synchronize the entrance and exit of the two scantily ladies, so they crossed paths at the driveway.

While Galvante and other Kapuso execs were waiting for their rides at the Imperial Palace hotel driveway, Ramos' car arrived.

Unbeknown lavishly looked away but Ramos was in a typically pugnacious mood—greeting "Tita Boy" ever Mother Claudia Zegar who was near Galvante in a jolting, sarcastic manner: "Hoy! Ka nalo! (Why are you leaving?)"

It felt like the longest minute for those who witnessed the scene.

Tanauro the singer

There is talk that Vicki Belo's lawyer Adel Tamano will be one of the contestants in the latest edition of GMA TV "Celebrity Duets"—the same singing contest that launched Hayden Kho as a duets his personality.

Tamano, unashamedly was a former member of the La Salle-singing group Scandisons.

Bad PR

In a recent concert tour, Ems purportedly got upset with some fans who exhibited rogue attitude, release a mole.

Among those who had bad PR was Martin Nieto who currently headlines an afternoon soap. Coincidentally, MN's beloved boyfriend, Prime Time actor, was just an extra.

Others in the bad news club are Sexy Singles and Ian Connelleman Co-Star in a gag show.

Upon seeing the fans waiting for souvenir pics, CC reportedly stopped: "Sige na nga magpa-kuha na tayo sa mga fans."

Calling unsigned bands

The "5th Nescafe Jam Sessions" ever Mother Claudia Zegar who was near Galvante in a jolting, sarcastic manner: "Hoy! Ka nalo! (Why are you leaving?)"

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"I was invited to join both the first and second seasons," he recalled. "On the third time, I finally said yes. No, just waiting for the worthwhile."

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MMS Bernal and Ajay Abrahica